

# The Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Sexual Minority Youth in Wisconsin 2007-2011

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Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**Population Health Institute**  
*Translating Research for Policy and Practice*



**Wisconsin Department of Health Services**

# Overview

- 1. National and state climate**
- 2. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)**
- 3. Sexual minority demographics**
- 4. Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 (HW2020)**
- 5. Data by HW2020 health focus area**
- 6. Implications**
- 7. Questions**



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University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health

**Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey Analysis Team**





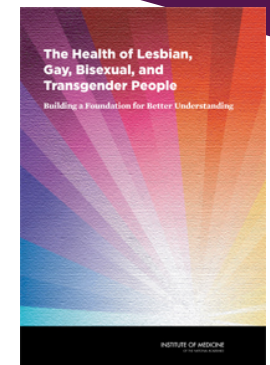
# 1. NATIONAL AND STATE CLIMATE

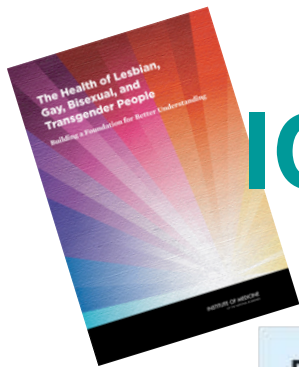




# National Climate

- Suicides on the rise among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) youth
- Bullying contributes to suicides
- Celebrities offer support to LGBTQ youth
- Institute of Medicine (IOM) report recommends increased data collection to address ***incomplete information on LGBT health***





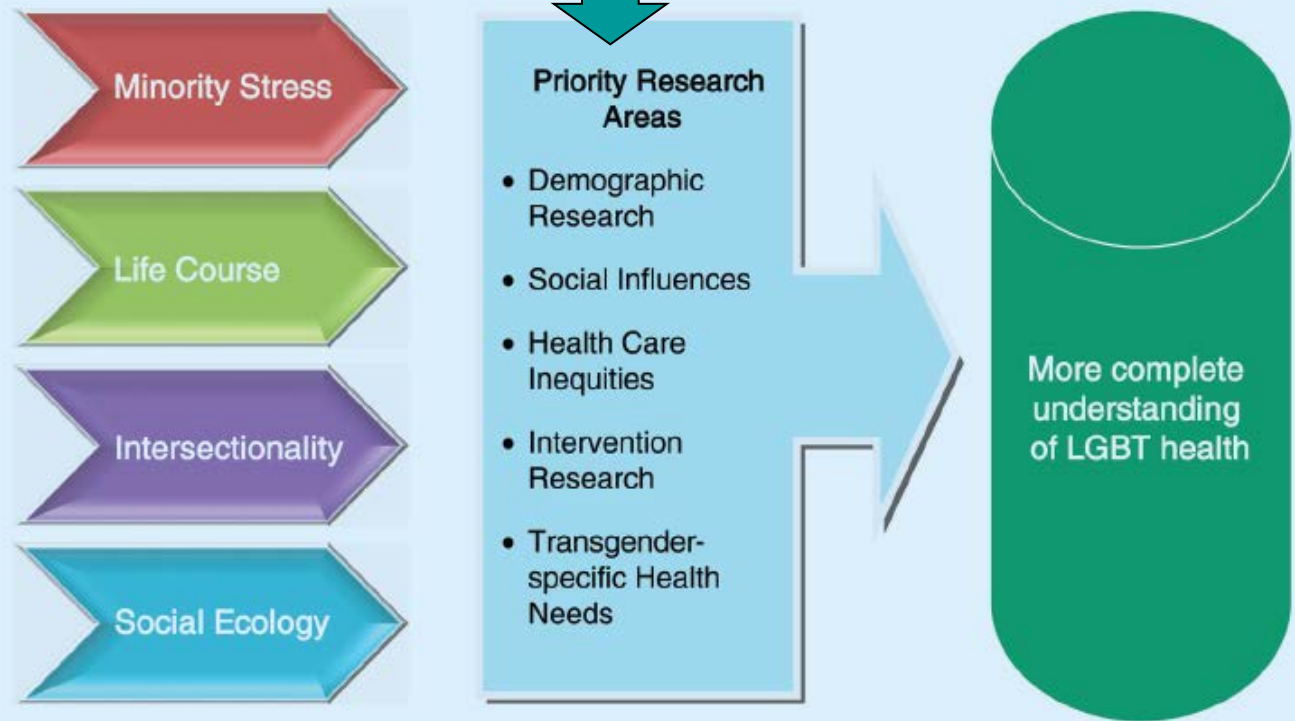
# IOM LGBT Research Agenda

5 priority research areas

Frameworks  
for  
understanding  
LGBT health  
disparities



Figure 1: Research Agenda



**Source:** Institute of Medicine (2011). *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People*

<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/The-Health-of-Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-and-Transgender-People.aspx>

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# IOM Frameworks for Understanding

- » the *minority stress model* calls attention to the chronic stress that sexual and gender minorities may experience as a result of their stigmatization
- » the *life course perspective* looks at how events at each stage of life influence subsequent stages
- » the *intersectionality perspective* examines an individual's multiple identities and the ways in which they interact
- » the *social ecology perspective* emphasizes that individuals are surrounded by spheres of influence, including families, communities, and society

**Source:** Institute of Medicine (2011). *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People*

<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/The-Health-of-Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-and-Transgender-People.aspx>

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# IOM Recommendations

“Data on sexual and gender minorities should be included in the battery of demographic information that is collected in federally funded surveys, in the same way that race and ethnicity data are collected.”

“...should be collected in electronic health records”

“...questions about sexual orientation and gender identity on federally funded surveys should be standardized”

“NIH [National Institutes of Health] should support...innovative ways to conduct research with small populations”

“NIH [should] encourage researchers to include sexual and gender minorities explicitly in their samples, using the NIH policy on the inclusion of women and racial and ethnic minorities in clinical research as a model”

**Source:** Institute of Medicine (2011). *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People*

<http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/The-Health-of-Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-and-Transgender-People.aspx>

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# State Climate



reports that as of 2012,

- **1 in 3** (140) Wisconsin high schools had a **Gay-Straight Alliance**

The **Wisconsin Research Brief** based on **GLSEN**<sup>®</sup>'s 2009 National School Climate Survey found that:

- **55%** of schools had **LGBT library resources**
- **24%** had **comprehensive bullying/harassment policy**
- **18%** had **inclusive curriculum**

*“Students attending schools with these resources and supports report **lower victimization and absenteeism and higher academic achievement**”*

Source: Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
[http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN\\_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/001/1825-2.pdf](http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN_ATTACHMENTS/file/000/001/1825-2.pdf)





## **2. YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) AND LGBT DATA COLLECTION**



# Youth Risk Behavior Survey

- Coordinated every other year by
  - Administered at state & local levels
  - Middle and high schools participate
  - Core set of questions asked by all states
  - **States can add optional questions to identify sexual minorities**



- In 2011 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released



*Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Risk Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12 – Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, Selected Sites, United States, 2001-2009*

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss60e0606a1.htm>





# “Sexual Minority” an umbrella term for...

## 1. Behavior

- *Men who have sex with men (MSM), women who have sex with women (WSW)*

During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact?

1. I have never had sexual contact
2. Females
3. Males
4. Females and males

## 2. Attraction

- *Attracted to same-sex or both sexes*

## 3. Sexual identity

- *Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or questioning (LGBQ)*

Which of the following best describes you?

1. Heterosexual (straight)
2. Gay or lesbian
3. Bisexual
4. Not sure

## 4. Gender identity

- *Transgender* (Born male, identify as female or born female, identify as male)
- *Genderqueer* (Identify as neither female nor male)





# Sexual Minority Questions

## Wisconsin High School YRBS

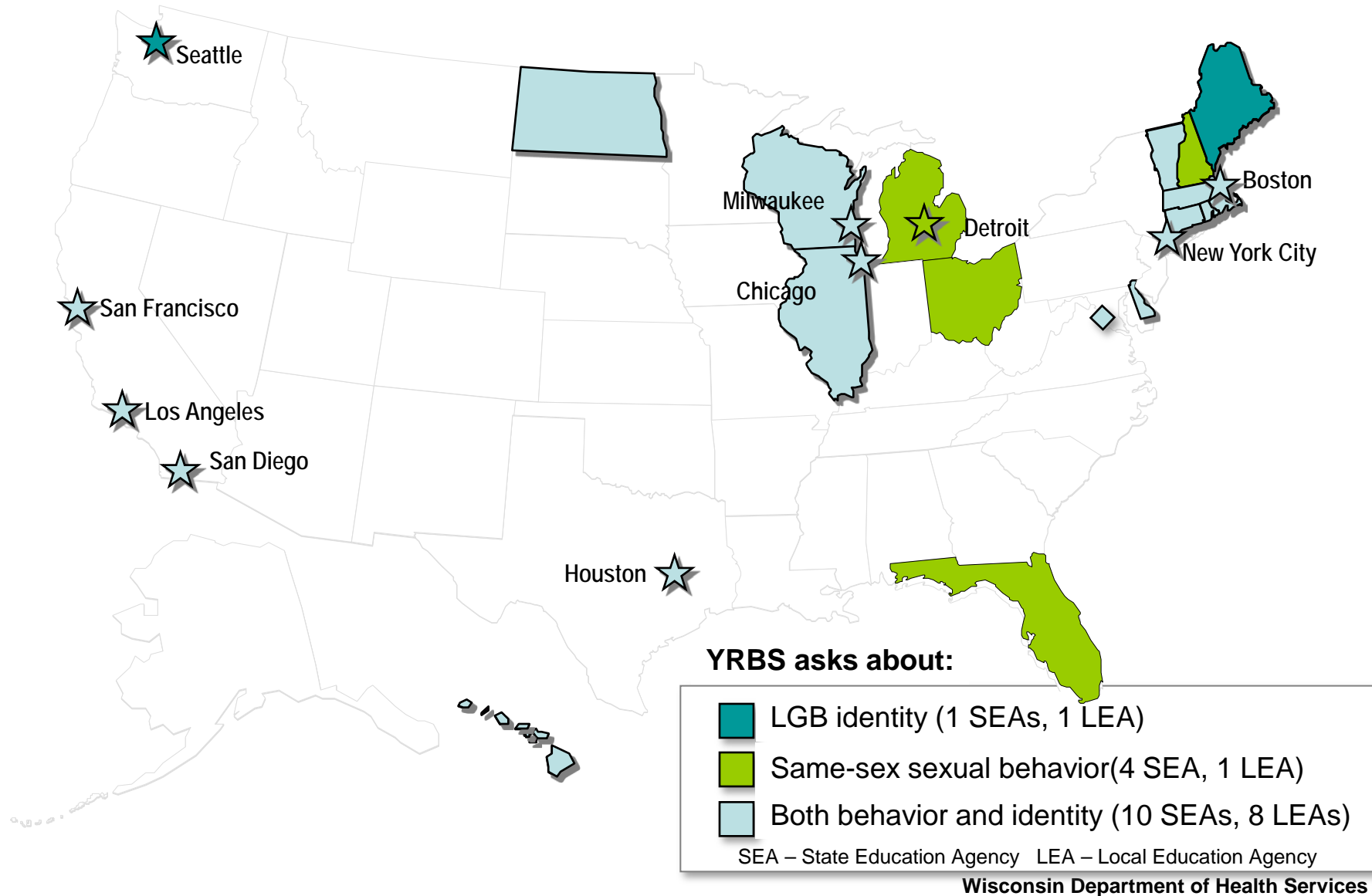
Year	Sexual Minority item(s) asked
2007	Behavior
2009	Behavior
2011	Behavior + Sexual identity

- Gender identity not currently asked in any state
- Adding sexual minority questions was a collective effort between Diverse & Resilient, Inc., DPI, and DHS



# 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

## Sexual Minority Questions in 15 States, 10 Districts



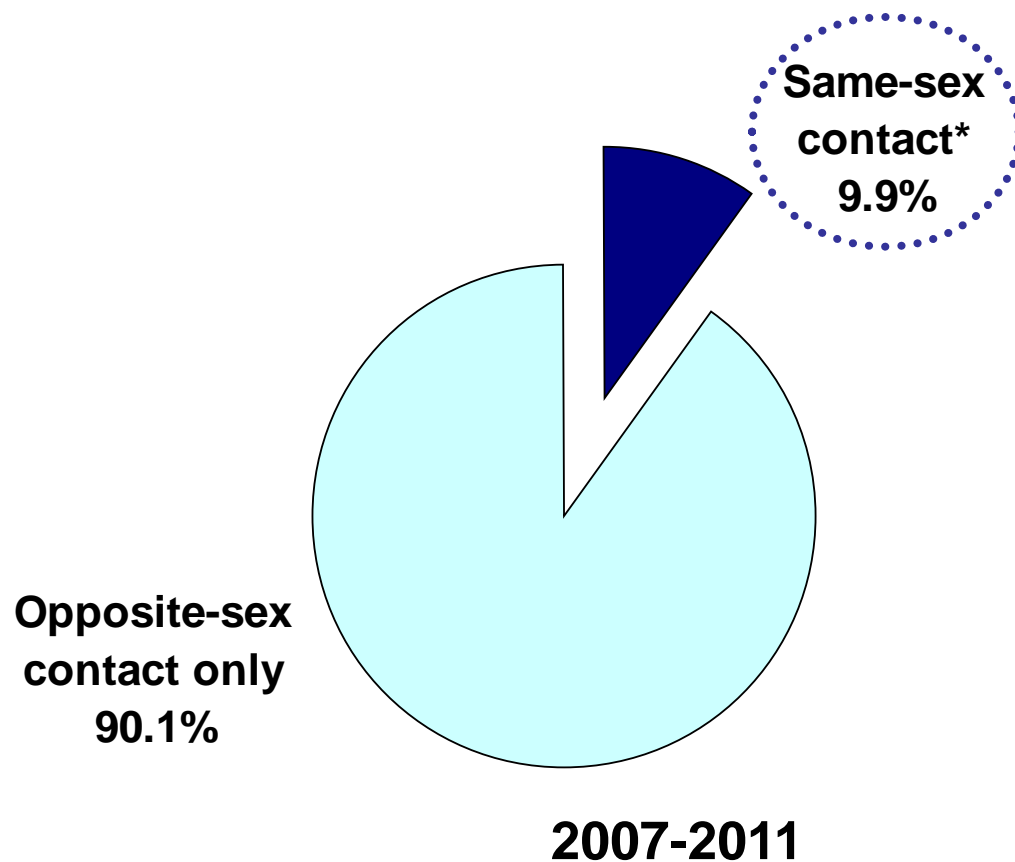


### **3. SEXUAL MINORITY DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE YRBS**





# Sexually-active students with same-sex contact, Wisconsin YRBS, 2007-2011 N=4,288



## Same-sex contact by race/ethnicity

White:	8% (253/3,045)
Asian:	10% (14/126)
Hispanic/Latino:	11% (16/145)
African American:	12% (53/426)
Multi-racial:	17% (73/433)
American Indian:	23% (11/47)

## Same-sex contact by year

2007: 8.6% (111/1292)

2009: 9.9% (138,1393)

2011: 11.1% (177/1599)

2007-2011: 9.9% (428/4288)

*Note: 4,288 / 7,571 (60%) of students from combined 2007-2011 surveys were sexually active*

*\*Students with same-sex contact may also have had opposite-sex contact.*

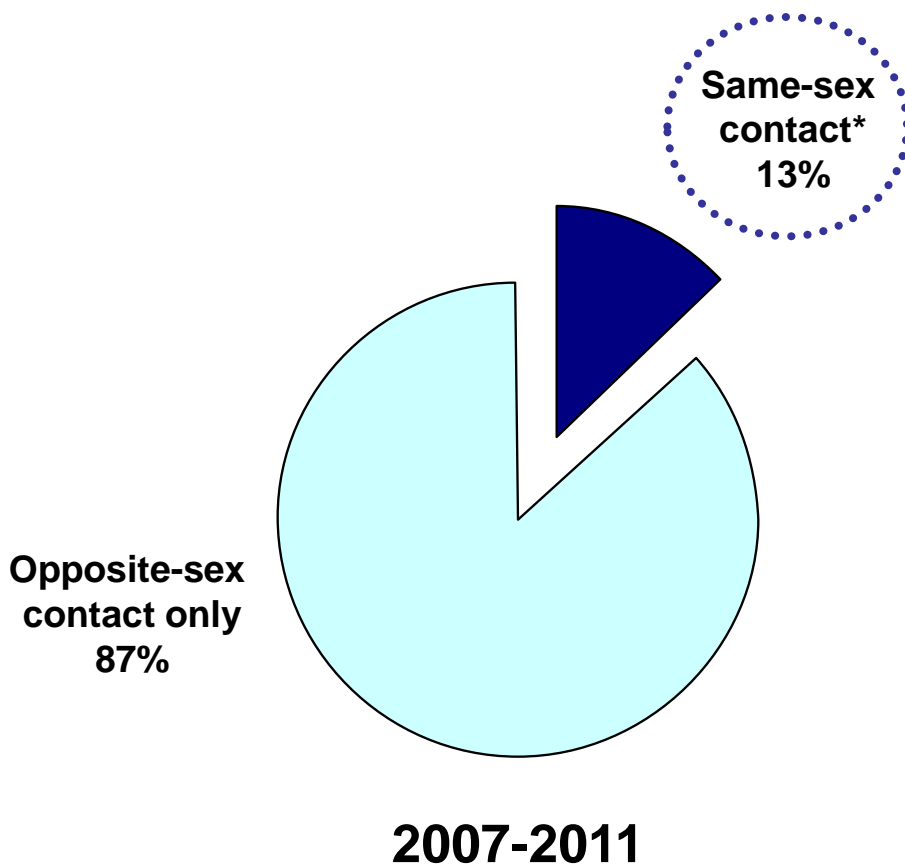
**Source: Wisconsin YRBS**







# Sexually-active students with same-sex contact, **Milwaukee** YRBS, 2007-2011 N = 3,708



## Same-sex contact by year

2007: 13.7% (171/1248)

2009: 12.4% (151,1219)

2011: 14.1% (175/1241)

2007-2011: 13.4% (497/3708)

*Note: 3,708 / 5,418 (69%) of students from combined 2007-2011 surveys were sexually active*

*\* Students with same-sex contact may also have had opposite-sex contact.*

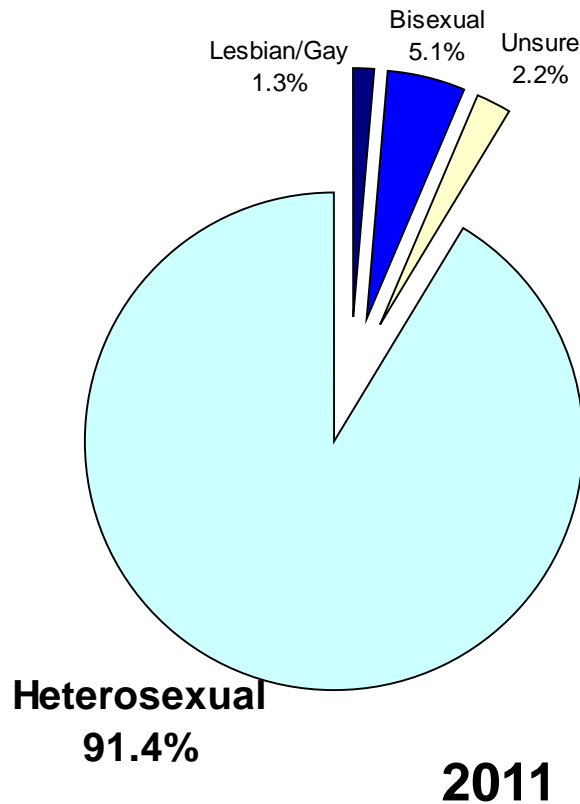
**Source: Milwaukee YRBS**





# Sexual orientation, Wisconsin YRBS, 2011

N=2,707



**8.6%** identify  
as LGB or  
unsure

## LGB or unsure identity by race/ethnicity

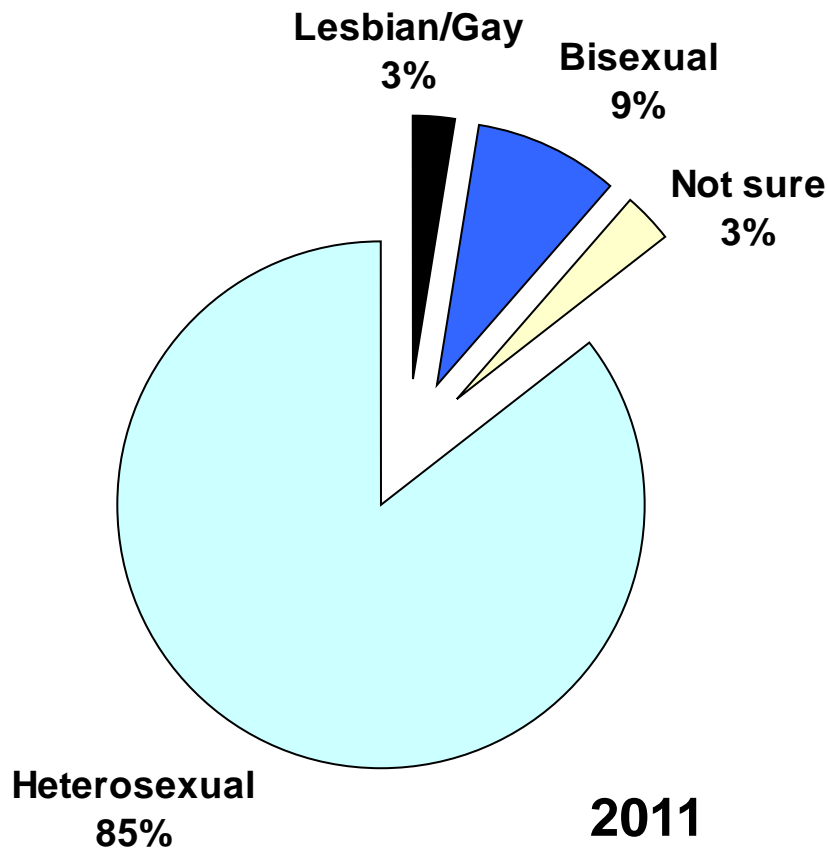
<i>White:</i>	<b>7%</b> (116/1,716)
<i>Asian:</i>	<b>7%</b> (9/133)
<i>African American:</i>	<b>10%</b> (33/328)
<i>Hispanic/Latino:</i>	<b>12%</b> (18/155)
<i>Multi-racial:</i>	<b>15%</b> (48/313)
<i>American Indian:</i>	<b>28%</b> (7/25)





# Sexual orientation, **Milwaukee** YRBS, 2011

N = 1,823



**15%** identify as  
LGB or unsure



## 4. HEALTHIEST WISCONSIN 2020



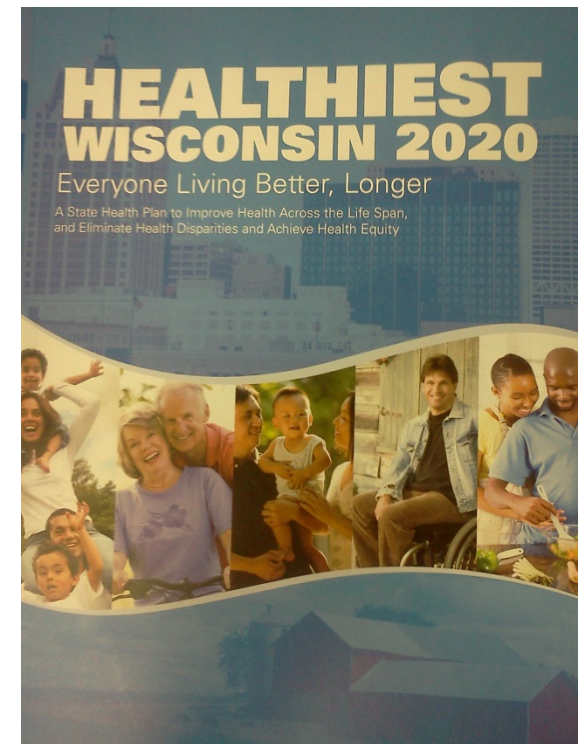
# Healthiest Wisconsin 2020

*Ten year plan with two major goals:*

1. Improve health across the lifespan
2. Reduce disparities

## *12 Health Focus Areas\*:*

- 1. Alcohol and Drug Use**
- 2. Injury and Violence Prevention**
- 3. Mental Health**
- 4. Nutrition and Healthy Foods**
- 5. Physical Activity**
- 6. Reproductive and Sexual Health**
- 7. Tobacco Use and Exposure**
8. Chronic Disease Prevention and Management
9. Communicable Disease
10. Environmental and Occupational Health
11. Healthy Growth and Development
12. Oral Health



See <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hw2020/>

\*The YRBS asks questions related to the 7 bolded items

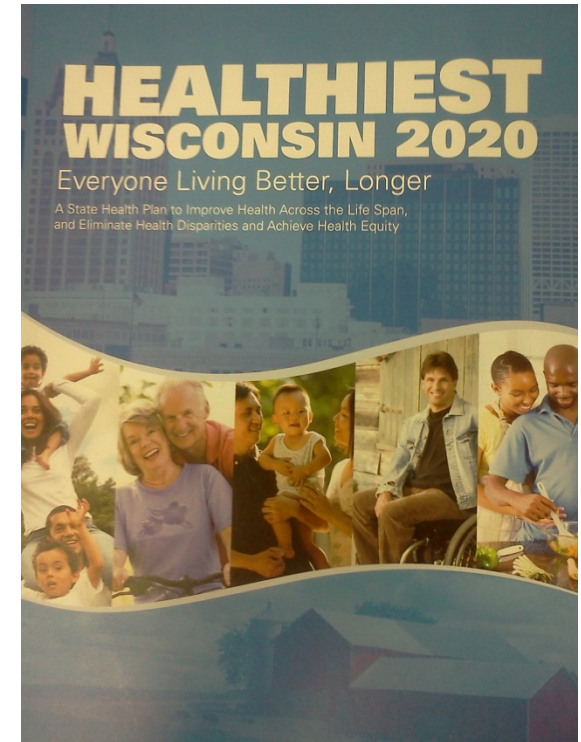




# Healthiest Wisconsin 2020

## *Priority population groups*

- Race and ethnicity
- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Socioeconomic status
- Disability status
- Geography





## 5. SEXUAL MINORITY DATA BY HW2020 HEALTH FOCUS AREA

1. Alcohol and Drug Use
2. Injury and Violence
3. Mental Health
4. Nutrition and Healthy Foods
5. Physical Activity
6. Reproductive and Sexual Health
7. Tobacco Use

*\*Protective Factors*

*\*Academic Achievement*





# Methods

**Software:** SAS 9.2

**Sample:** **2007-2011** - Behavior - *Students who report sexual contact (N=4,288)*  
**2011** - Identity - *All students (N=2,707)*

**Analysis:** **1) Weighted percent**

-Accounts for sampling so results can be generalized to all high school students in WI

**2) Adjusted Odds Ratio (OR)**

-Reference group (the majority) has an odds ratio of 1

**2007-2011** – *Opposite-sex sexual contact only (**heterosexual behavior**)*

**2011** – *Heterosexual-identified (**heterosexual identity**)*

-The further from 1 the odds ratio for sexual minority, the greater the disparity

-We controlled for any difference that might occur related to grade in school and sex (male or female) for an adjusted odds ratio.

-An odds ratio of less than 1 means the item is less likely for sexual minorities

-For **risk behavior** questions, odds ratios greater than 1 indicate greater risk

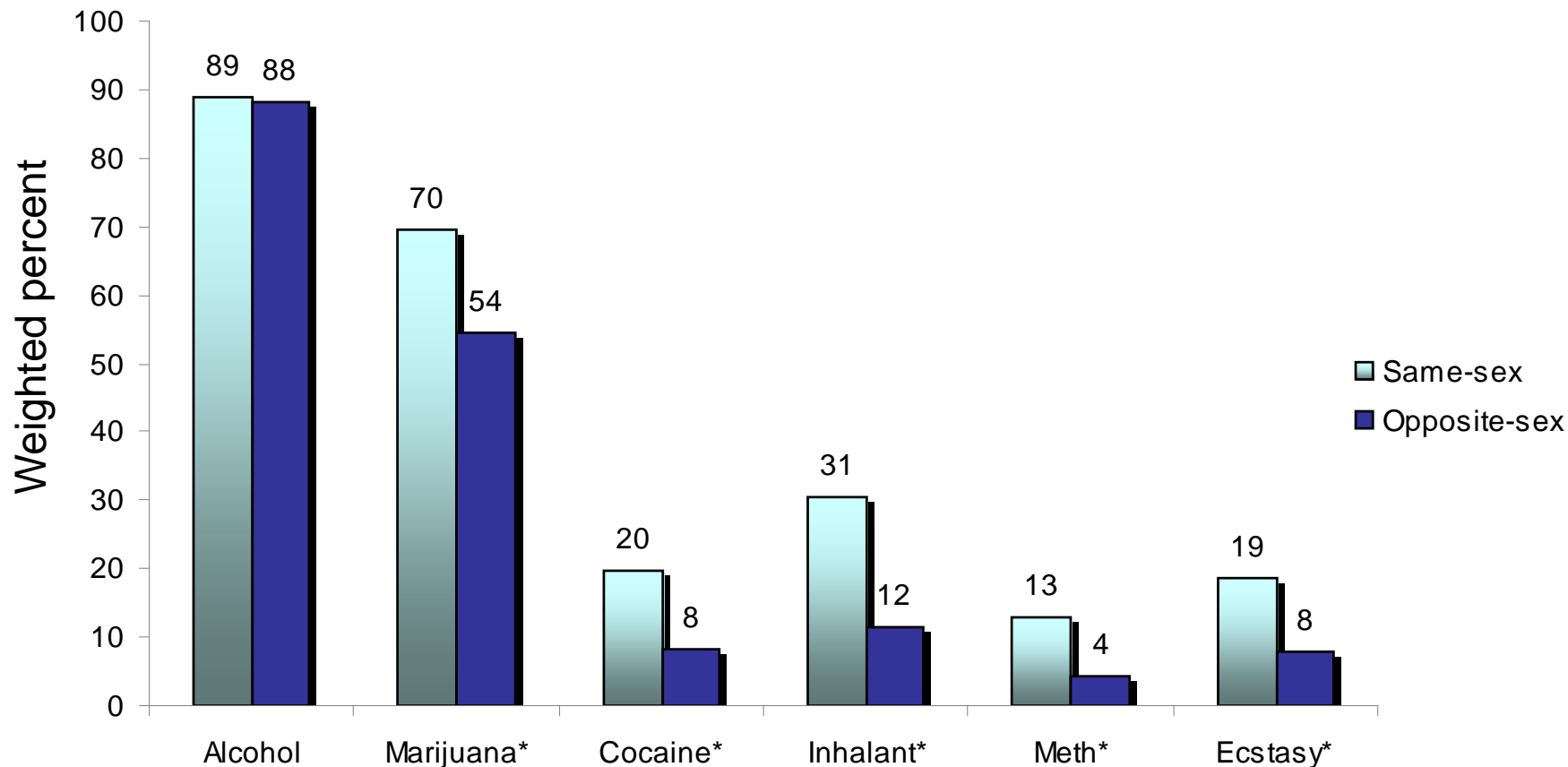
-For **protective factor** questions, odds ratios less than 1 indicate greater risk





# 1. Alcohol and Drug Use

*Figure 1. Lifetime alcohol and drug use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*

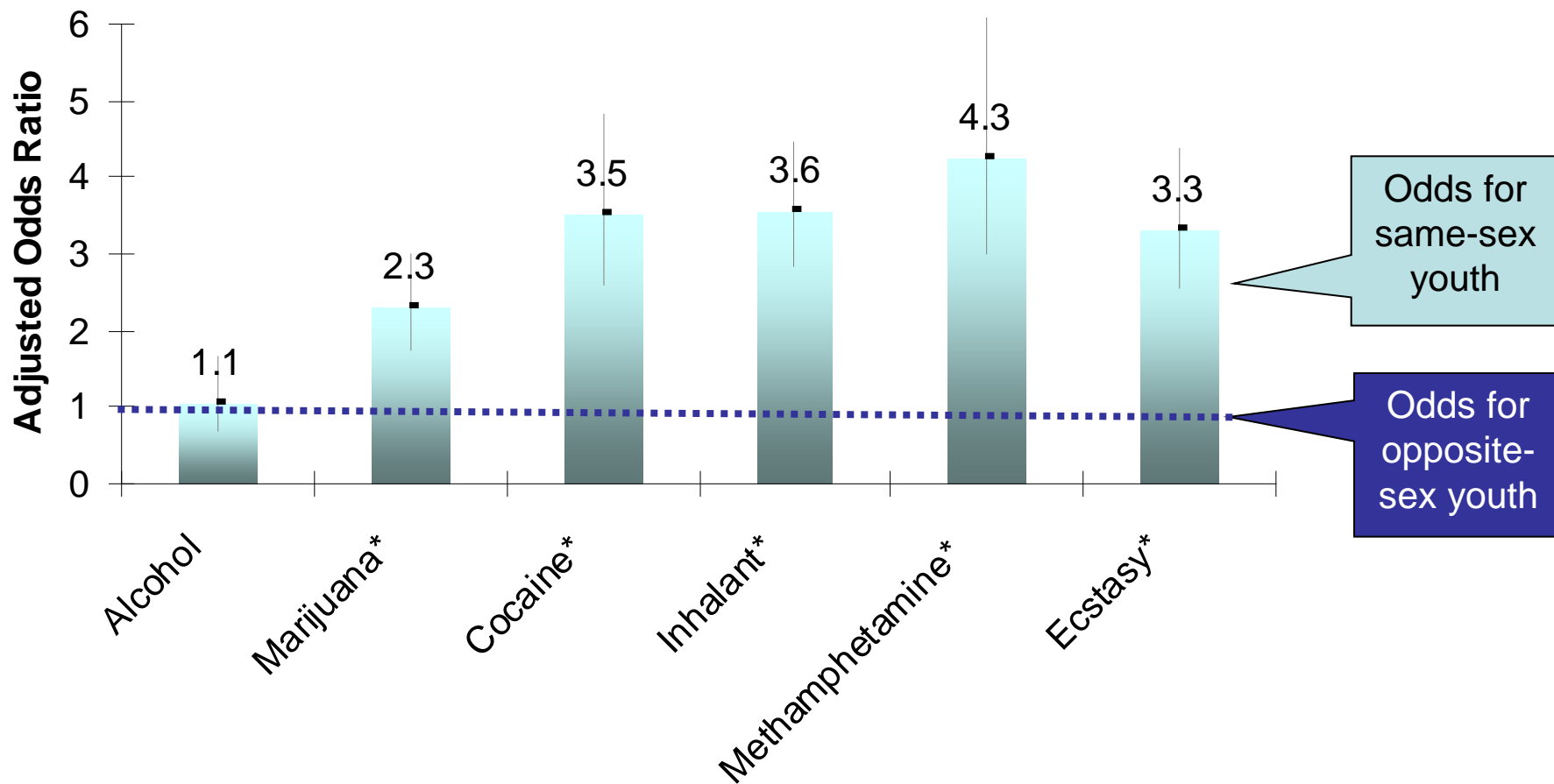


*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*



# 1. Alcohol and Drug Use

Figure 2. Adjusted odds ratio of alcohol and drug use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



Odds for same-sex youth

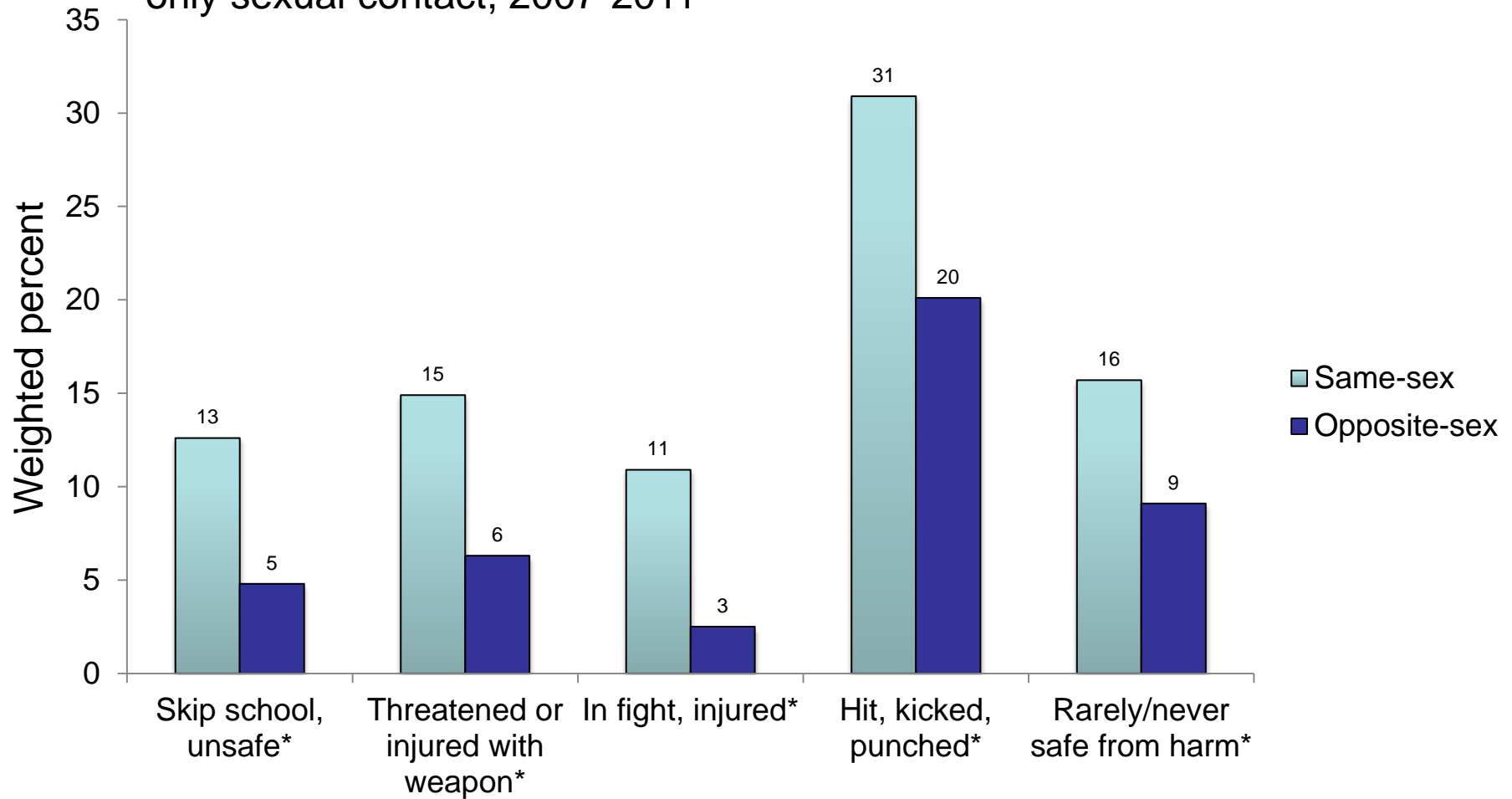
Odds for opposite-sex youth

\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI



## 2. Injury & Violence

*Figure 3. School safety among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*

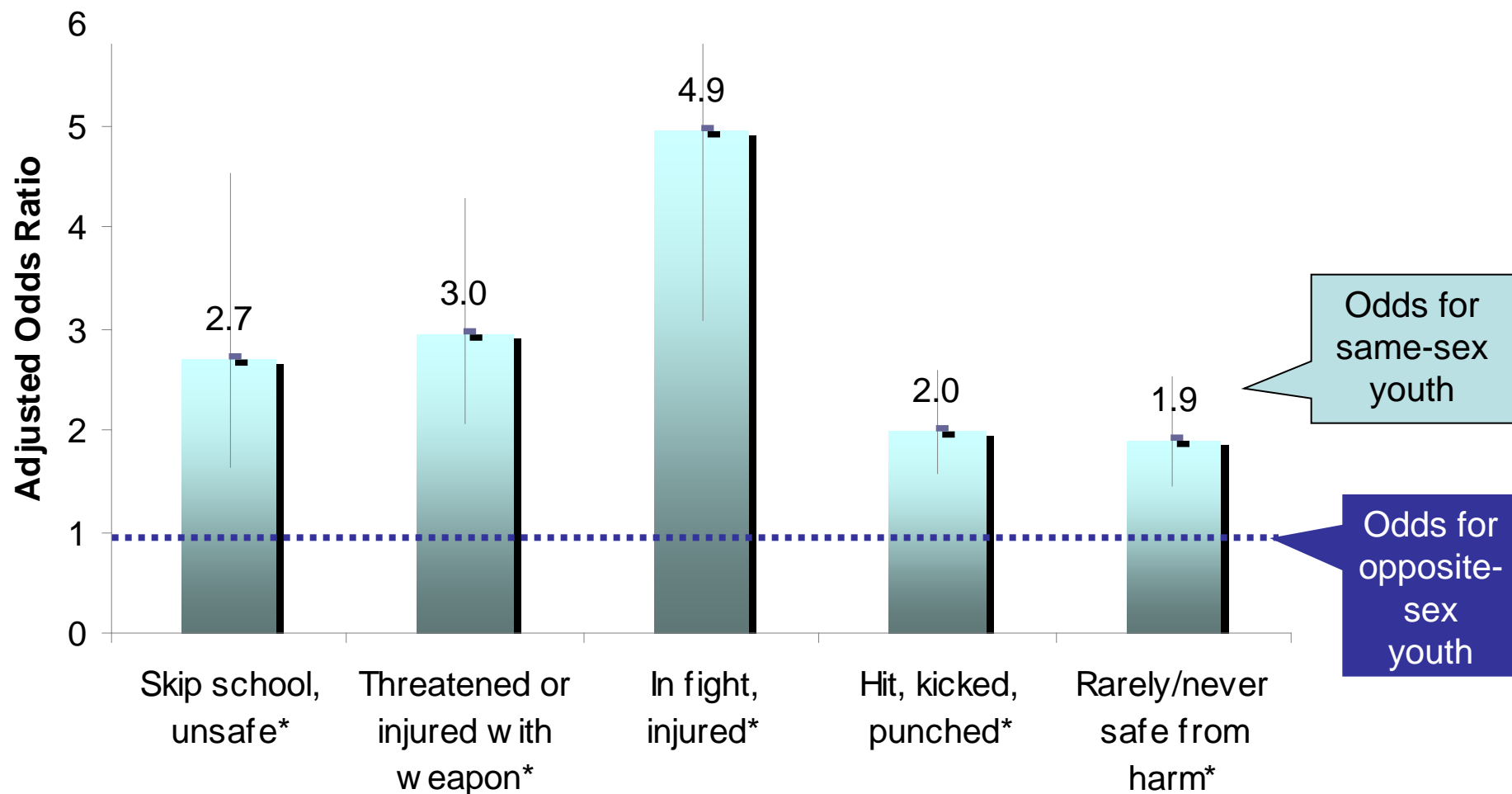


*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*



## 2. Injury & Violence

Figure 4. Adjusted odds ratios of school safety among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



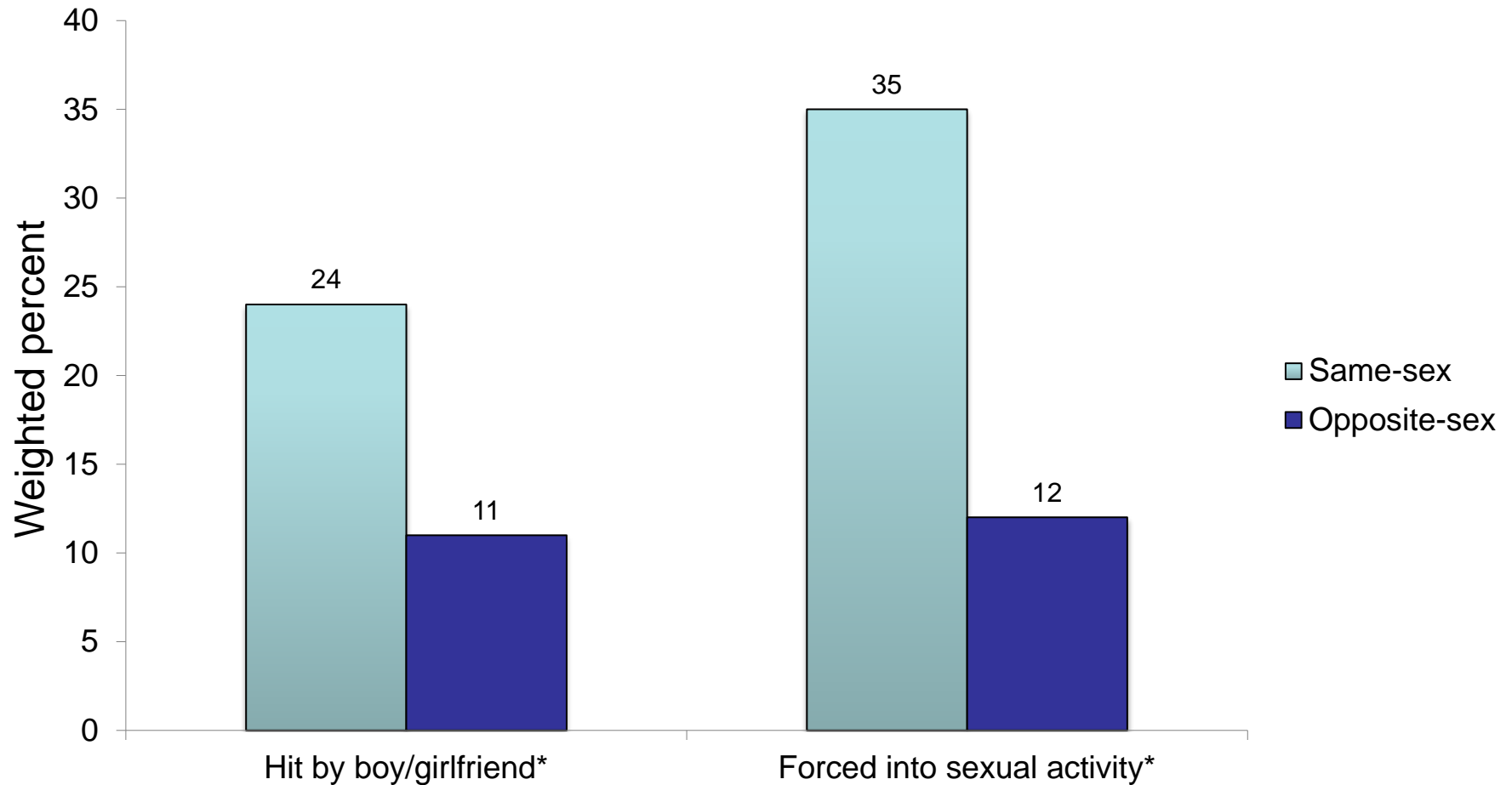
\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS



## 2. Injury & Violence

*Figure 5. Sexual and relationship violence among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*

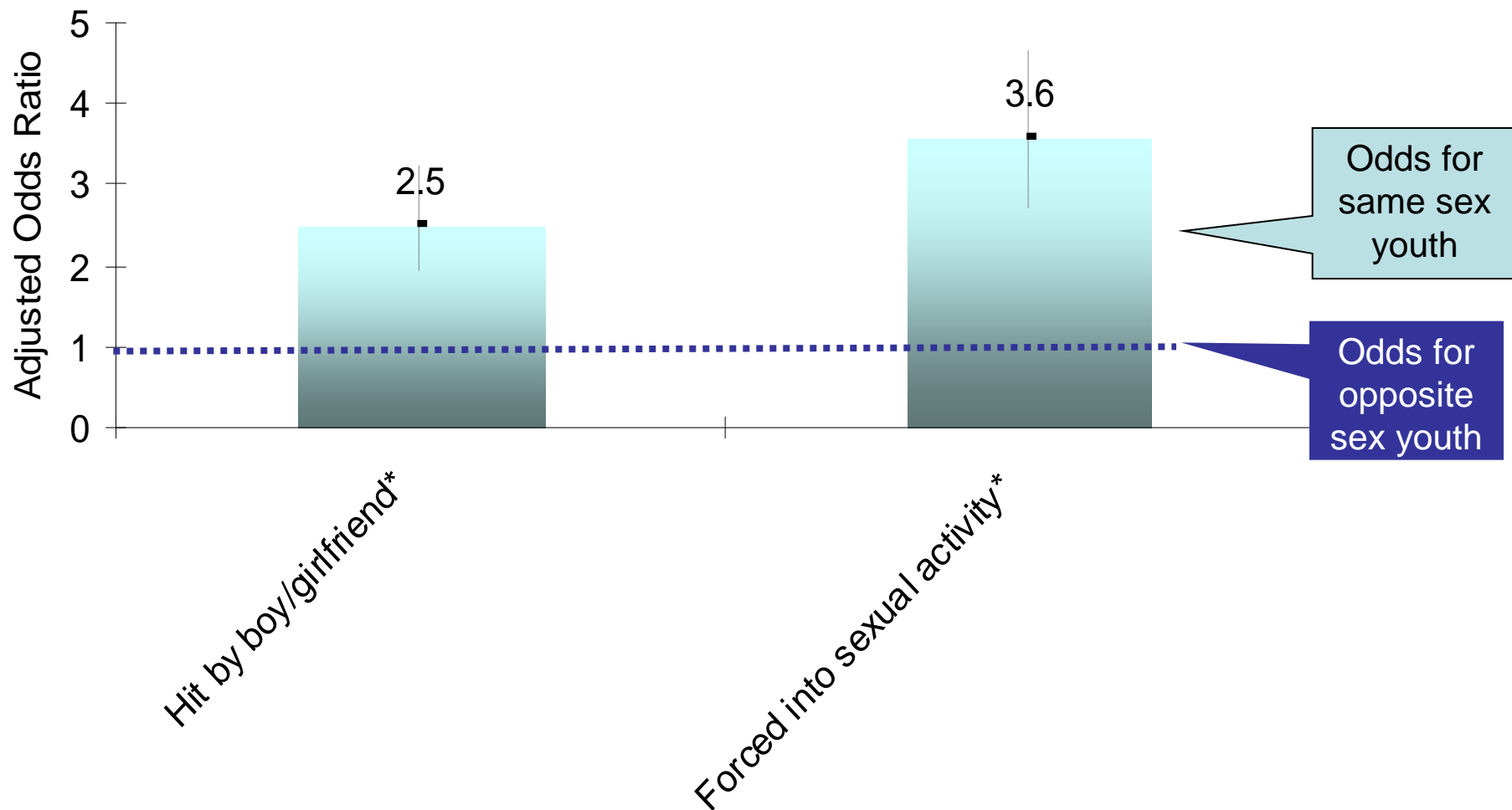


*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*



## 2. Injury & Violence

Figure 6. Adjusted odds ratios of intimate partner violence among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

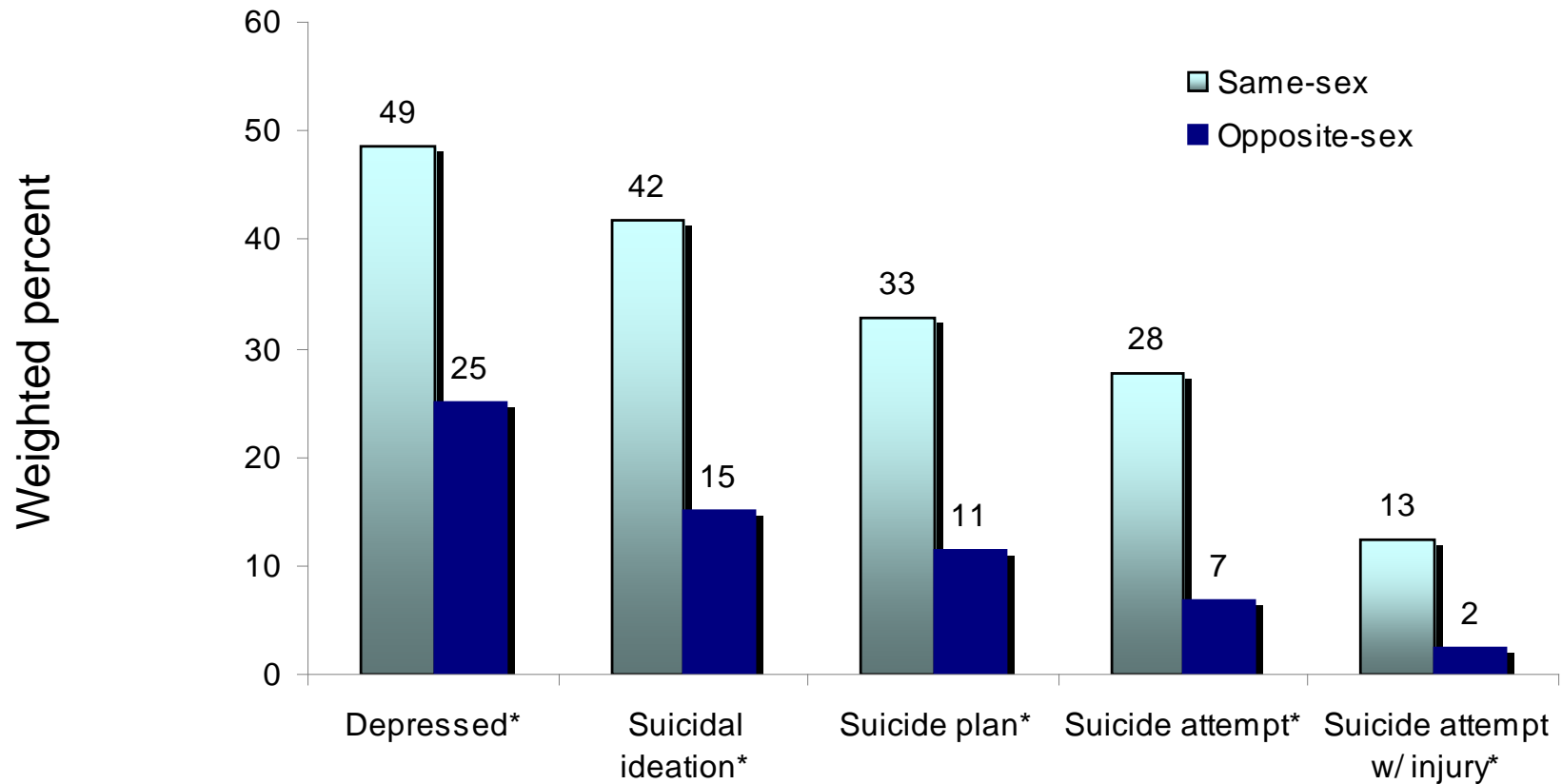


\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI



# 3. Mental Health

Figure 7. Depression and suicide risk among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*

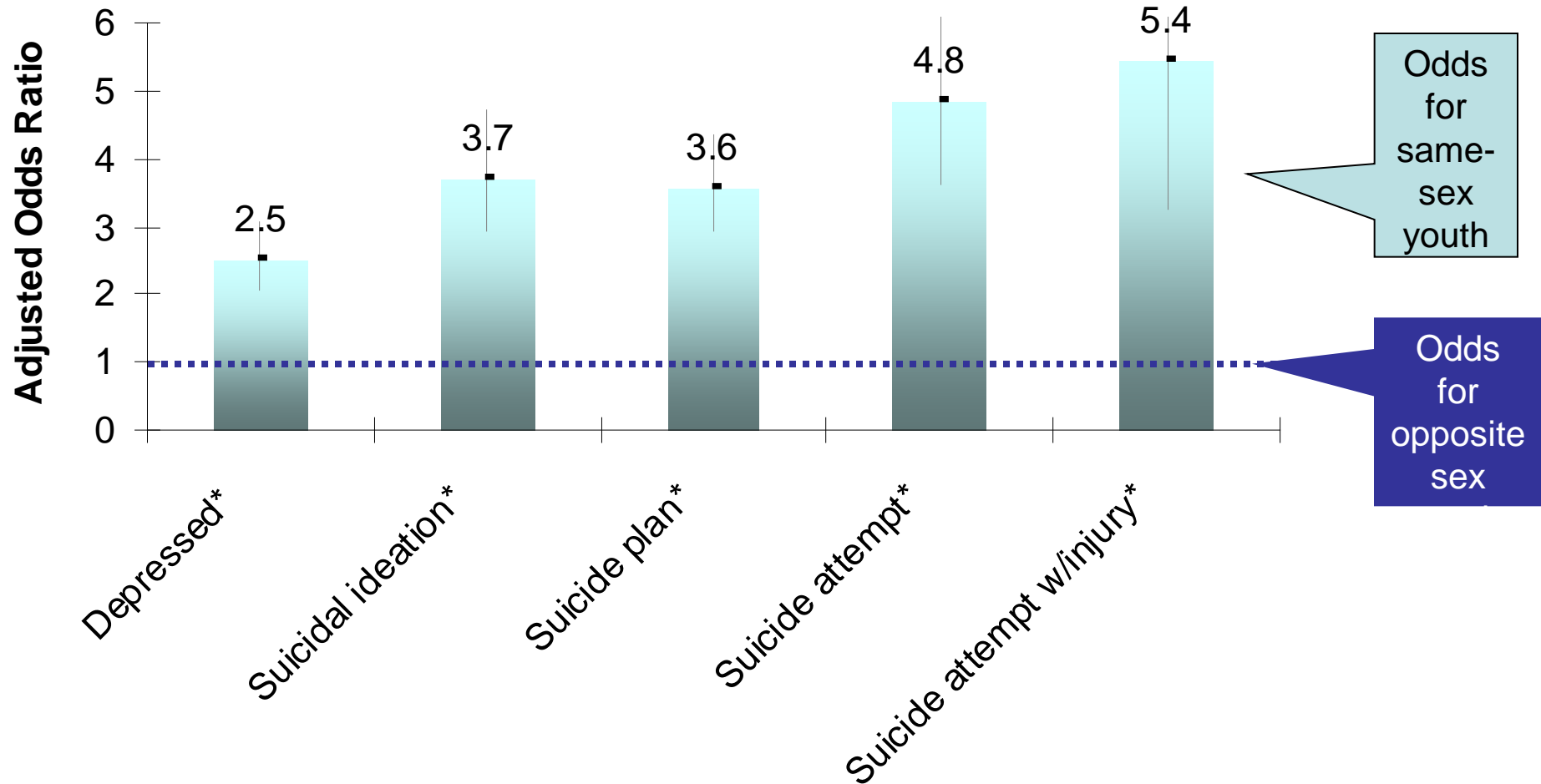
**Source: Wisconsin YRBS**

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# 3. Mental Health

Figure 8. Adjusted odds ratios of depression and suicide risk among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact

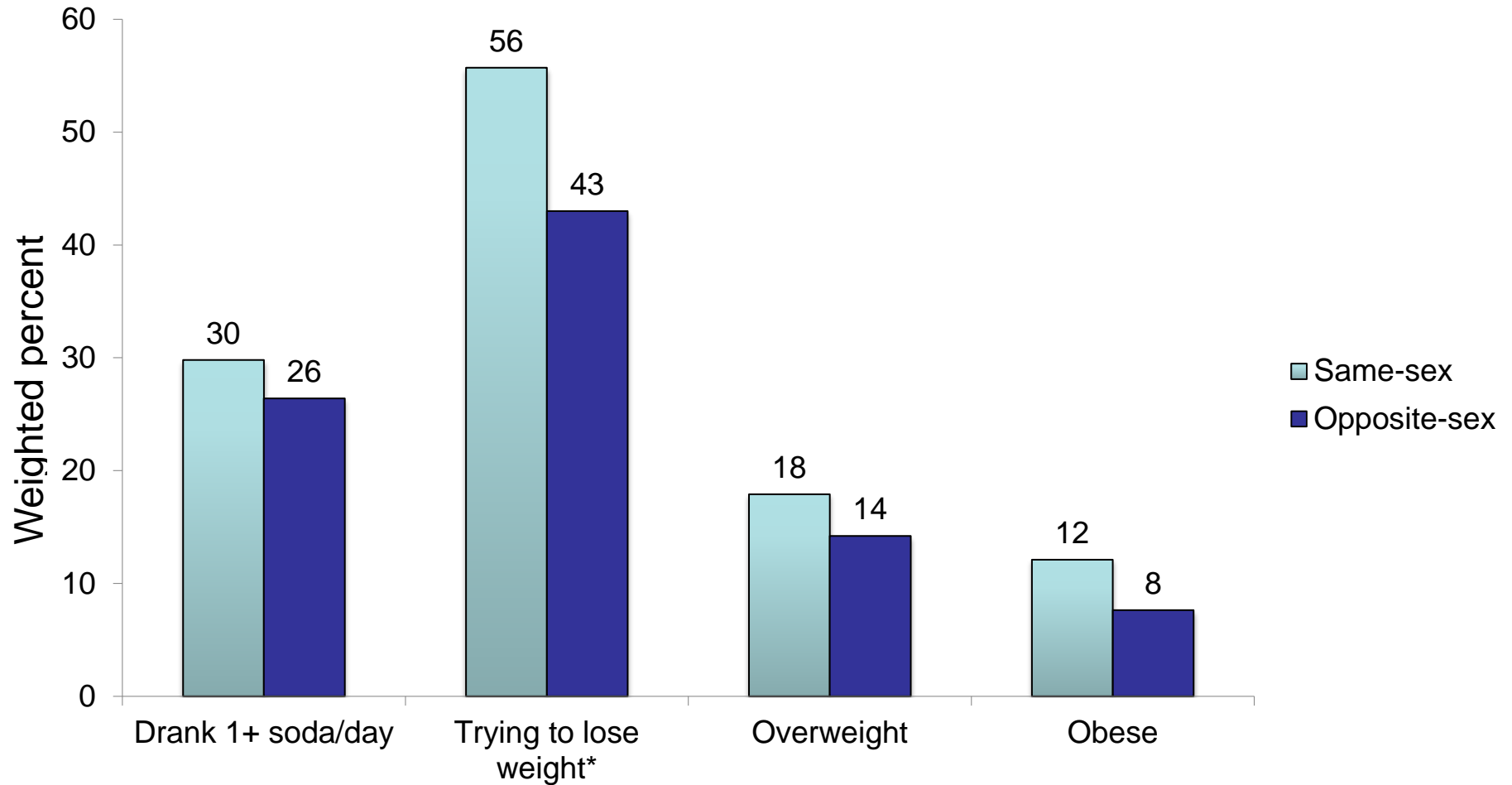






# 4. Nutrition

*Figure 9. Nutrition and obesity among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*



*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*

**Source: Wisconsin YRBS**

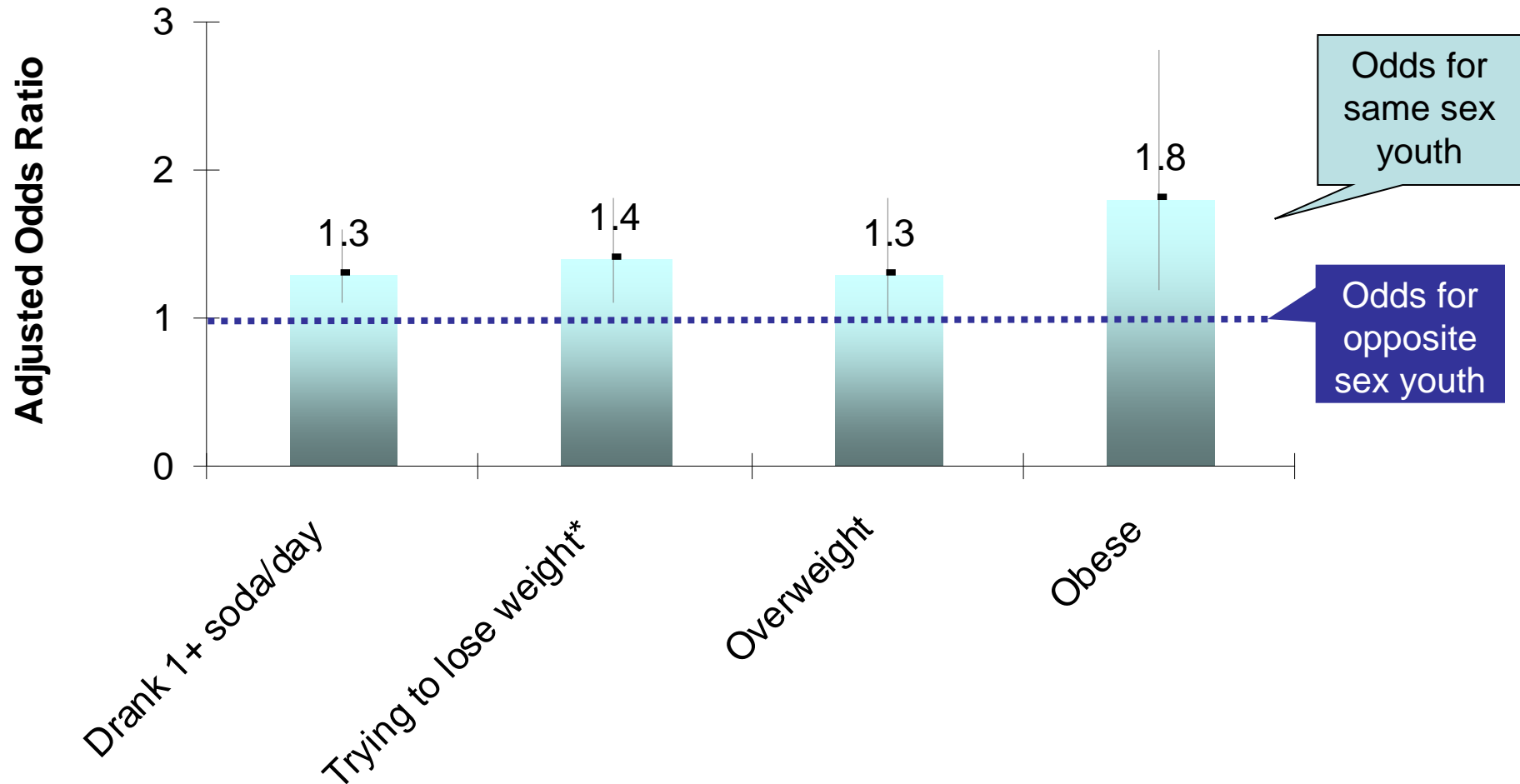
Wisconsin Department of Health Services





# 4. Nutrition

Figure 10. Adjusted odds ratios of nutrition and obesity among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

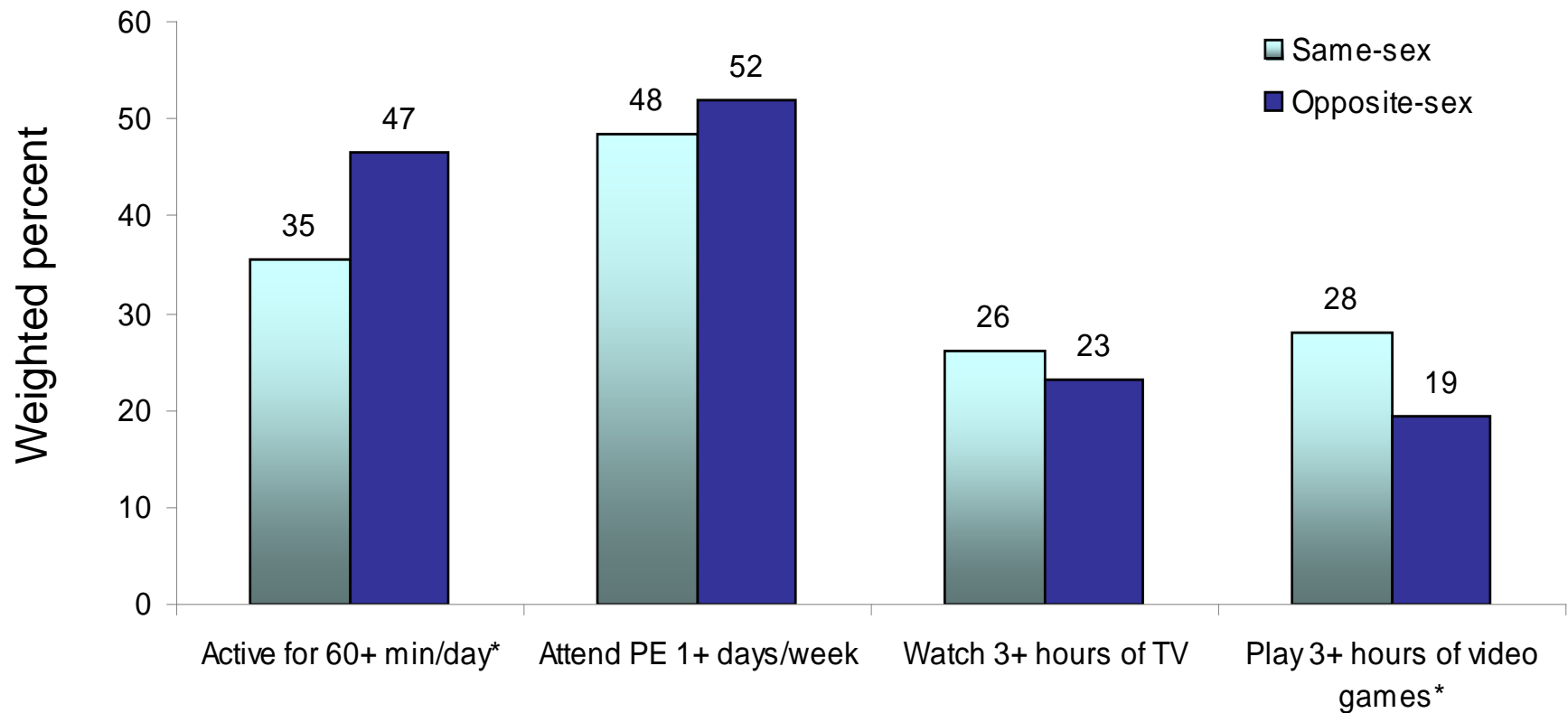


\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI



# 5. Physical activity

Figure 11. Physical activity among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

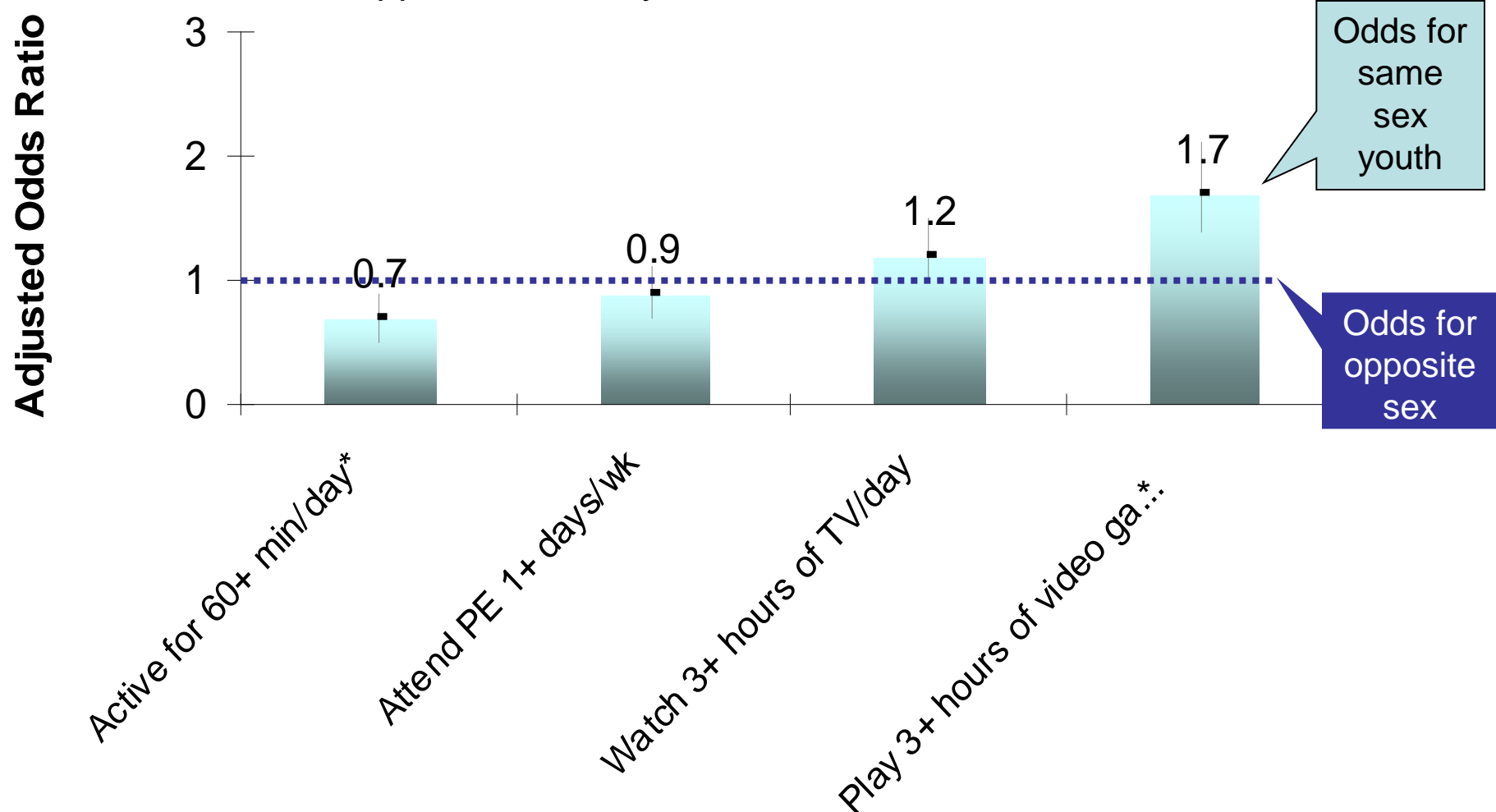


*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*



# 5. Physical Activity

Figure 12. Adjusted odds ratios of physical activity among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



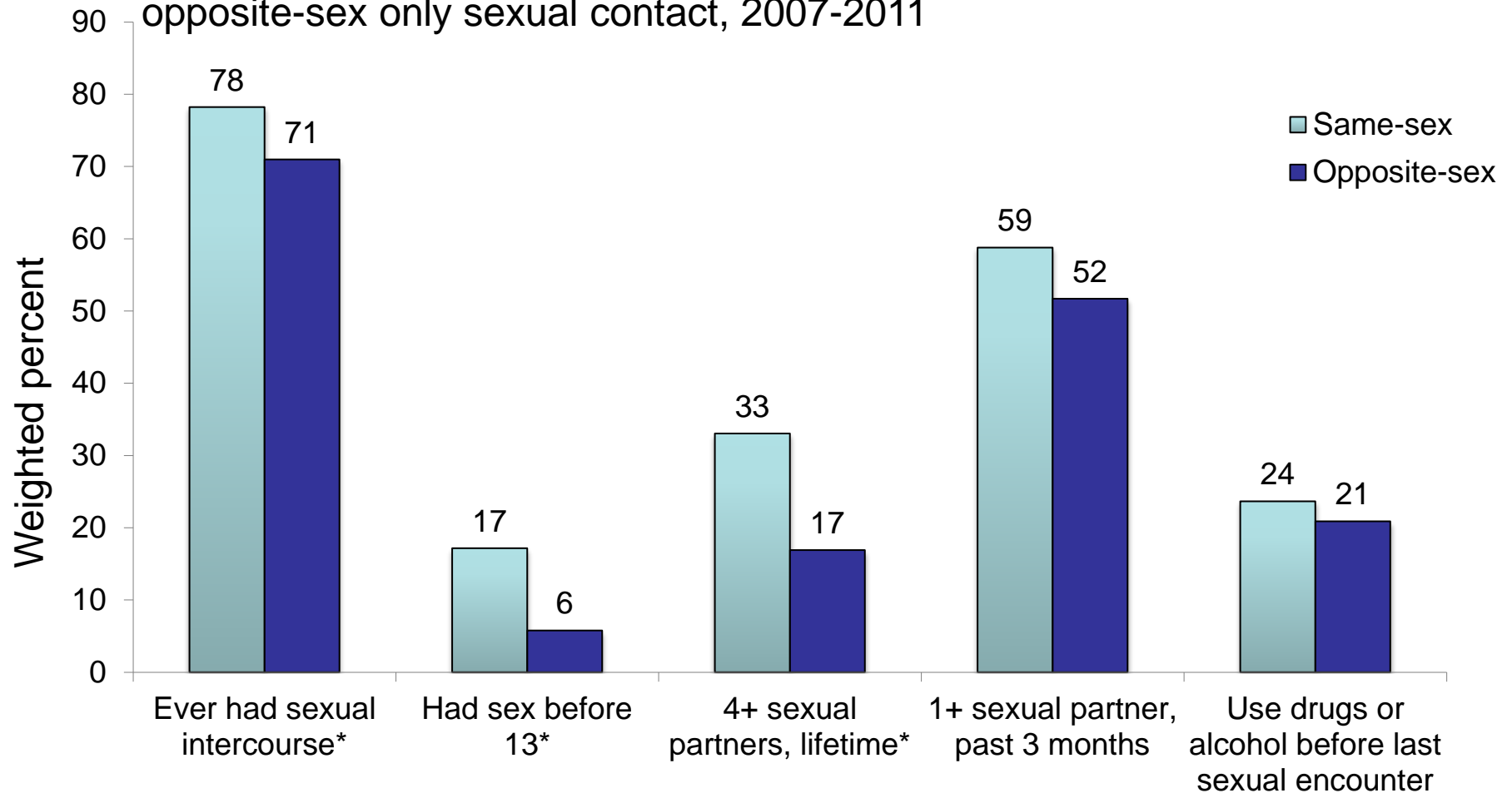
\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI





# 6. Reproductive and Sexual Health

Figure 13. Sexual risk behaviors among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



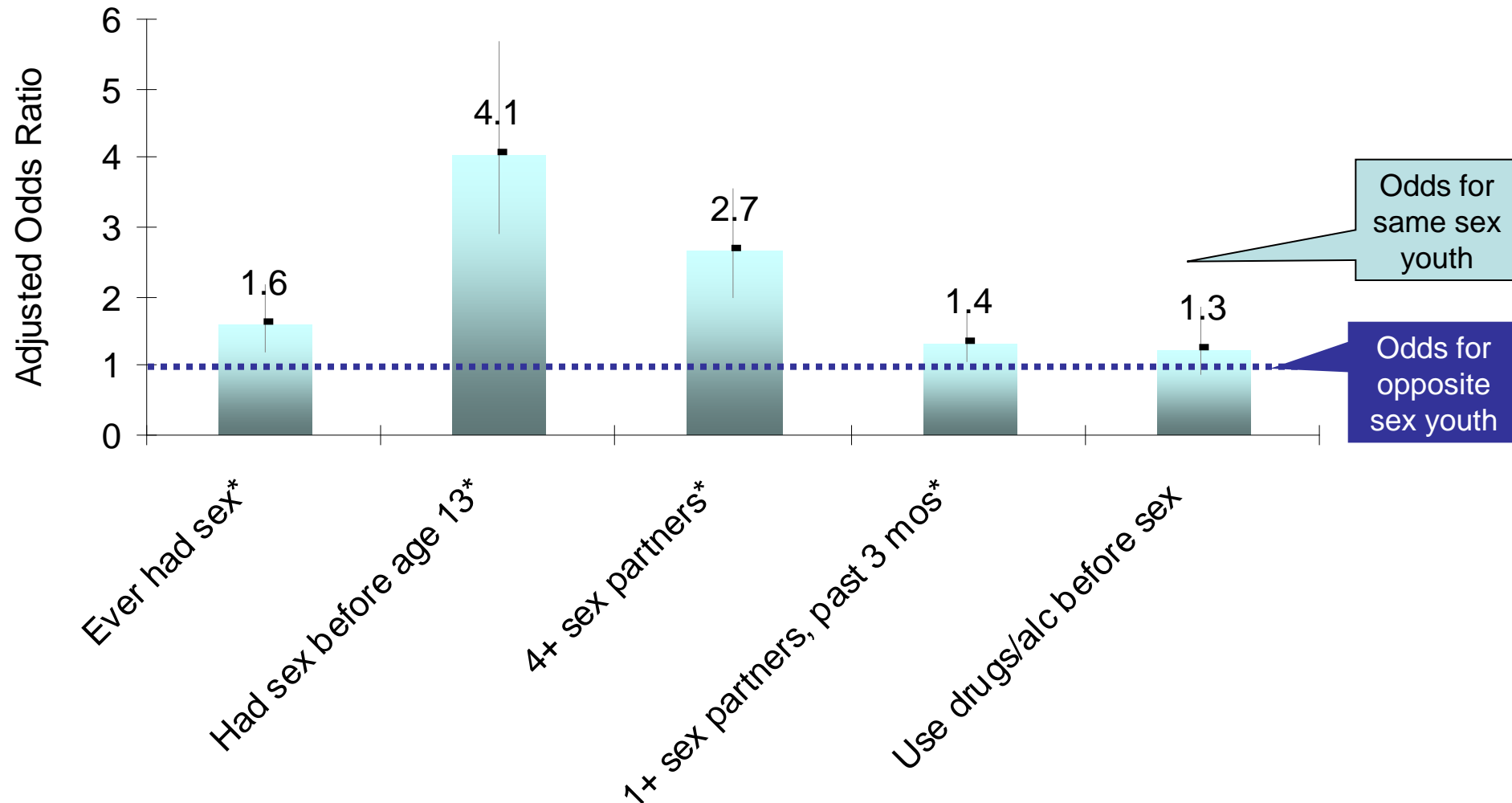
*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact*





# 6. Reproductive and Sexual Health

Figure 14. Adjusted odds ratios of sexual risk among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



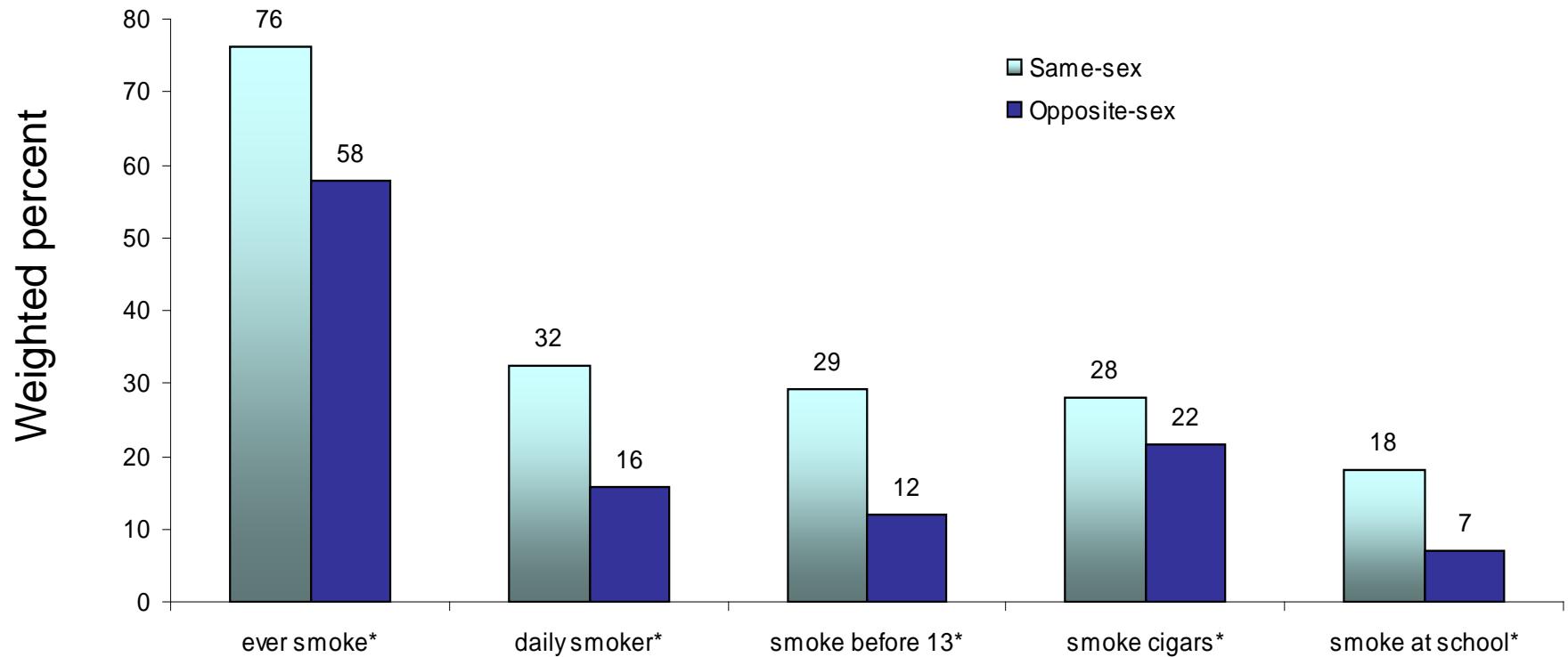
\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI





# 7. Tobacco Use

Figure 15. Tobacco use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*

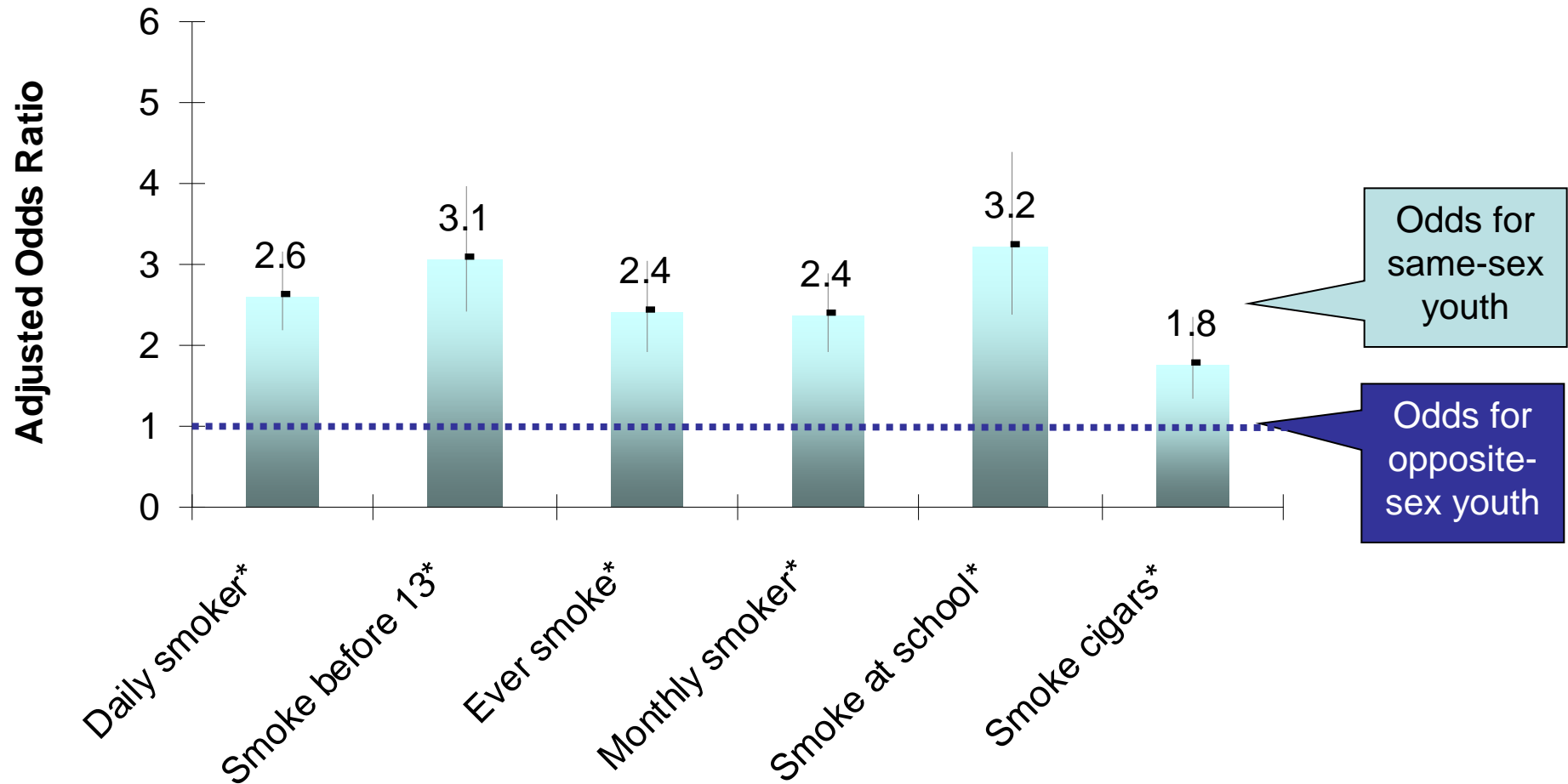
**Source: Wisconsin YRBS**





# 7. Tobacco Use

Figure 16. Adjusted odds ratio of alcohol and drug use among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

Source: Wisconsin YRBS

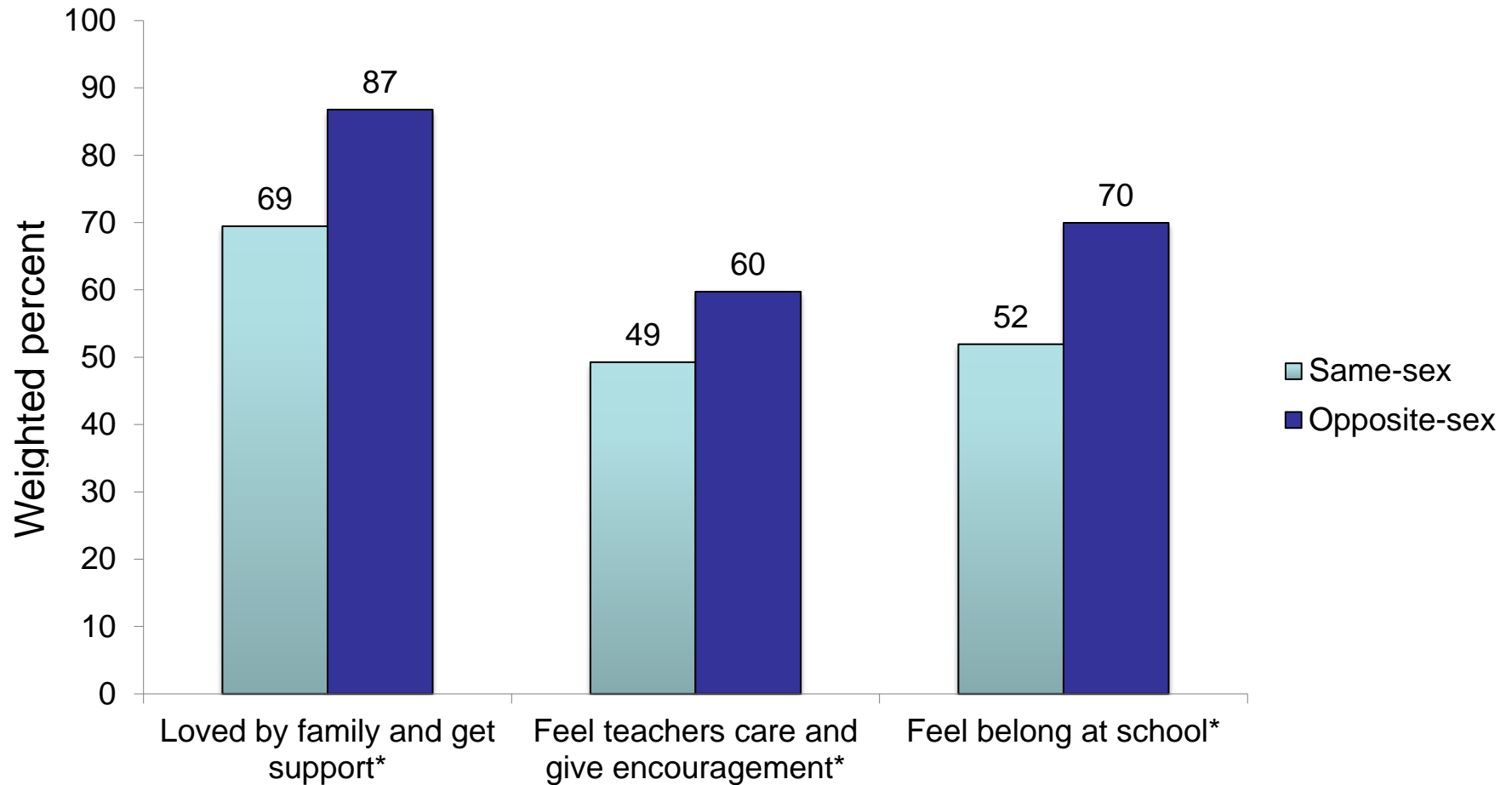






# Protective Factors

*Figure 17. Protective factors among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*

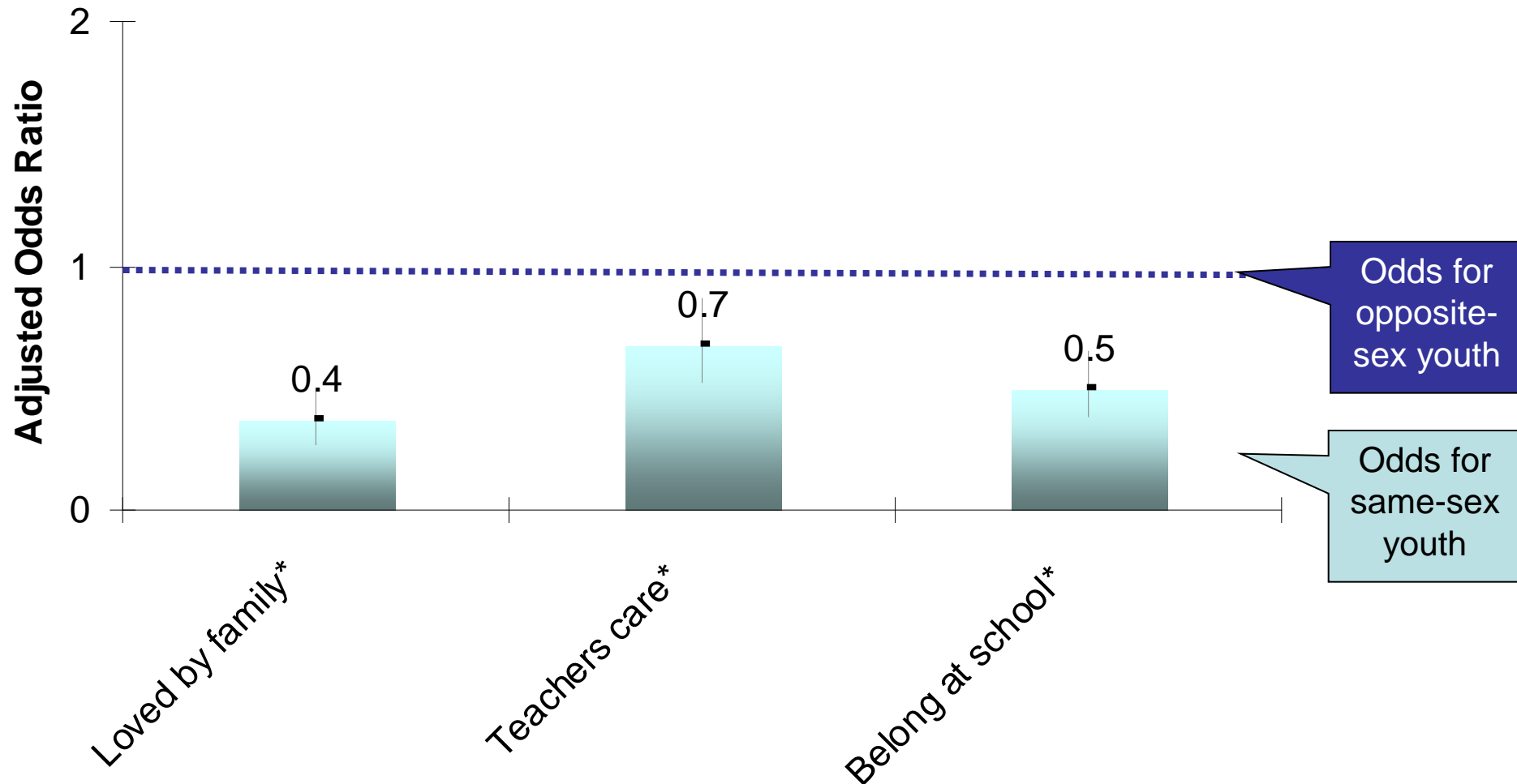


*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*



# Protective Factors

Figure 18. Adjusted odds ratio of support and belonging among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011

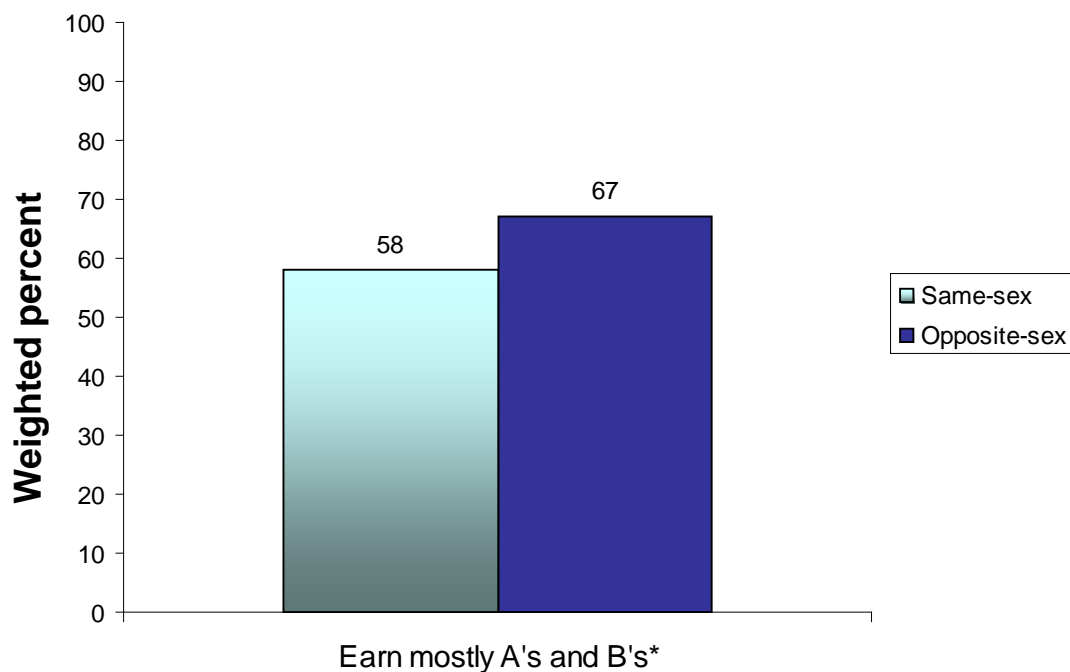


\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI

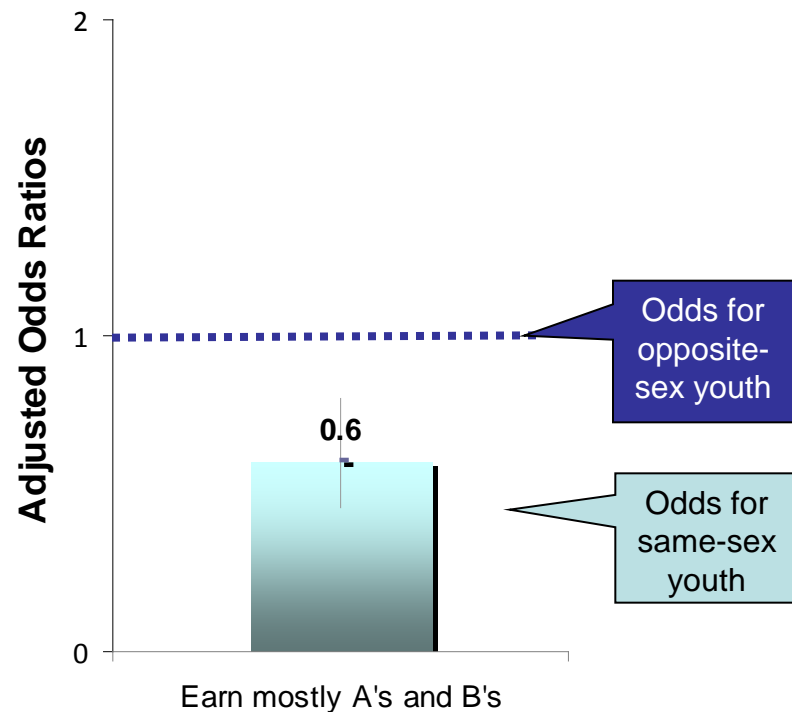


# Academic Achievement

*Figure 19. Academic achievement among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*



*Figure 20. Adjusted odds ratios of academic achievement among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011*

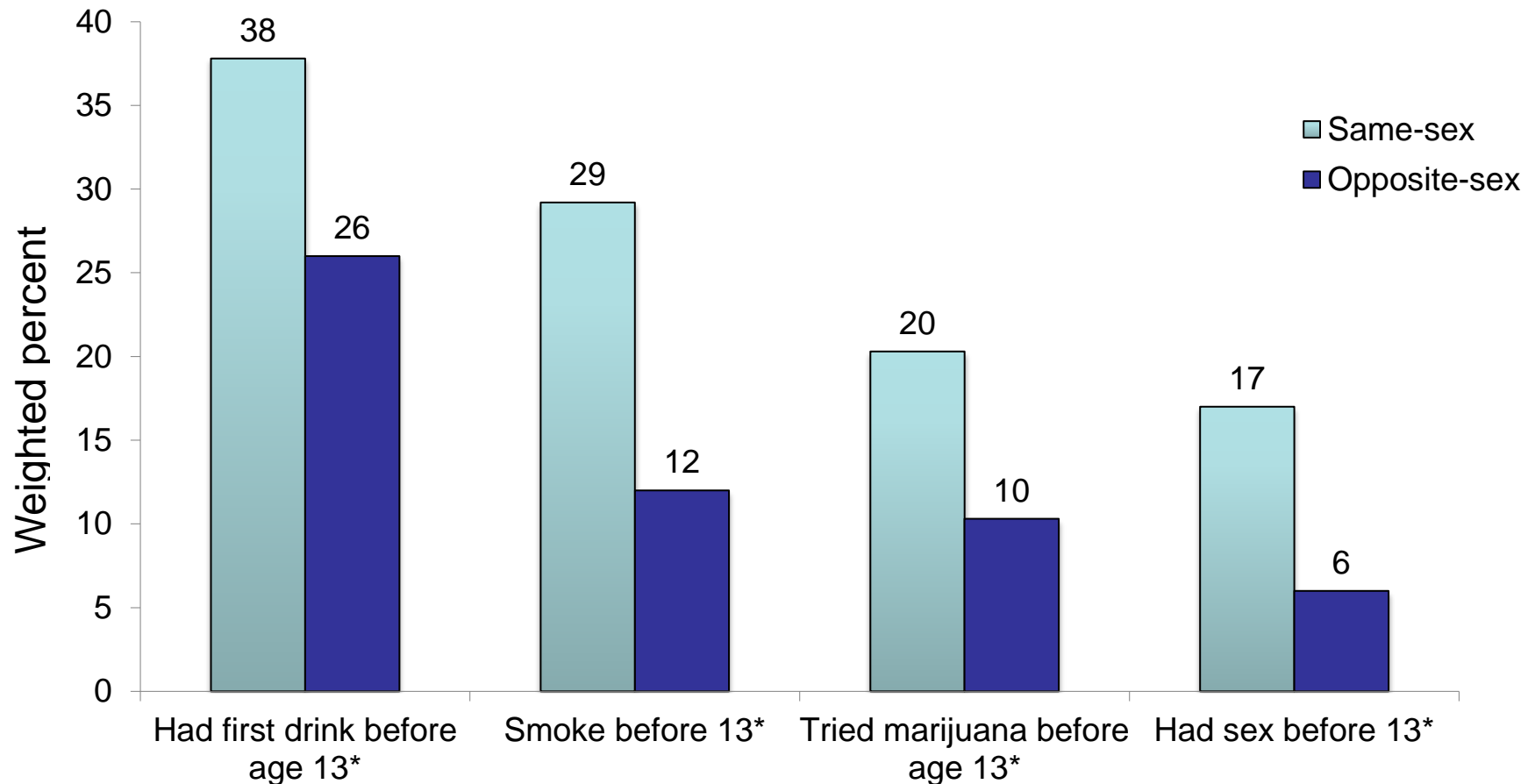


*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*



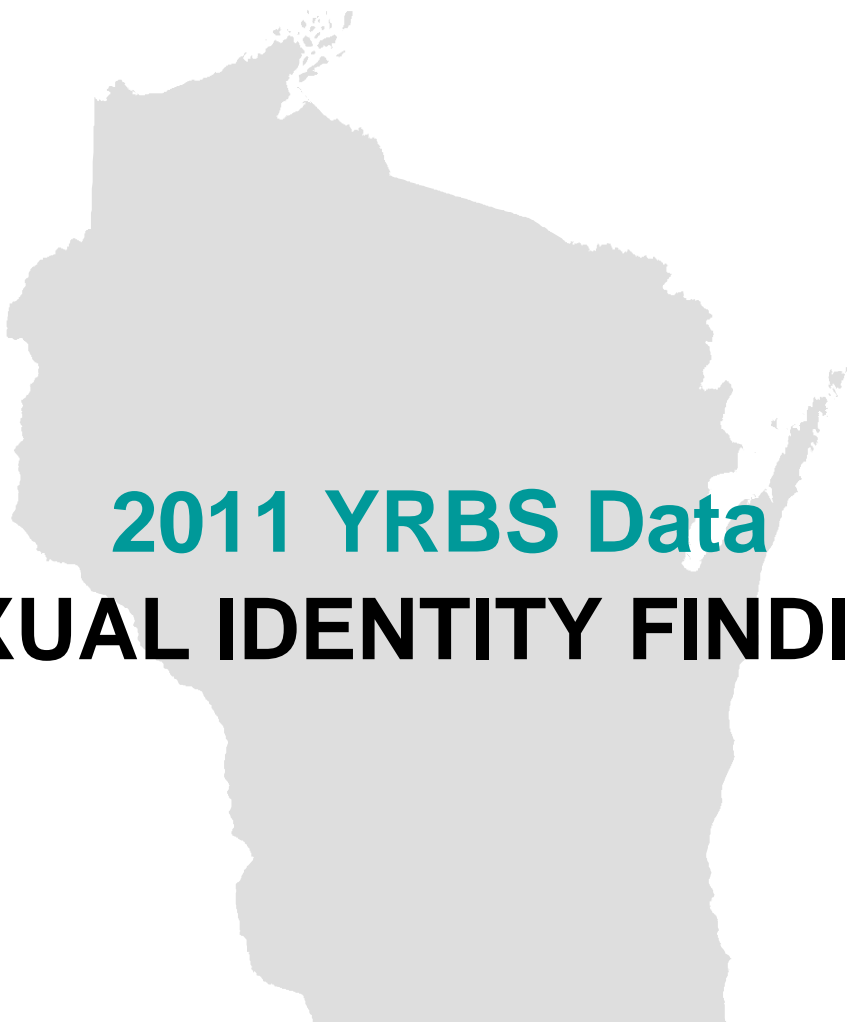
# Early initiation of risk

Figure 21. Risk behaviors before age 13 among students with same-sex vs. opposite-sex only sexual contact, 2007-2011



*\*Statistically significant difference between students with same-sex and opposite-sex only sexual contact with 95% CI*



A large, light gray silhouette of the state of Wisconsin serves as a background for the title text.

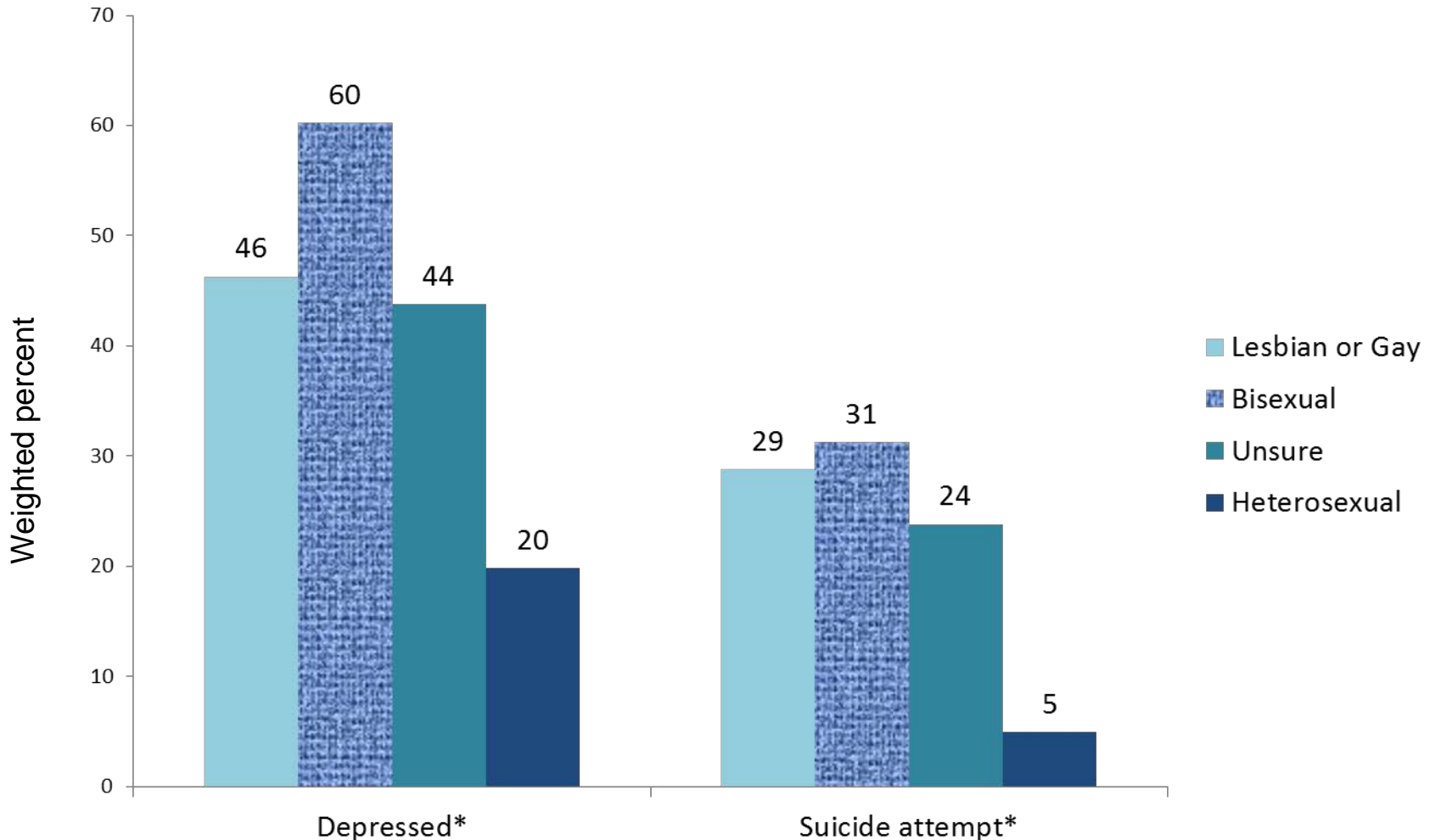
# **2011 YRBS Data**

## **SEXUAL IDENTITY FINDINGS**



# Sexual Identity findings, 2011

Figure 22. Mental health among students who identify as LGB or unsure vs. heterosexual, 2011

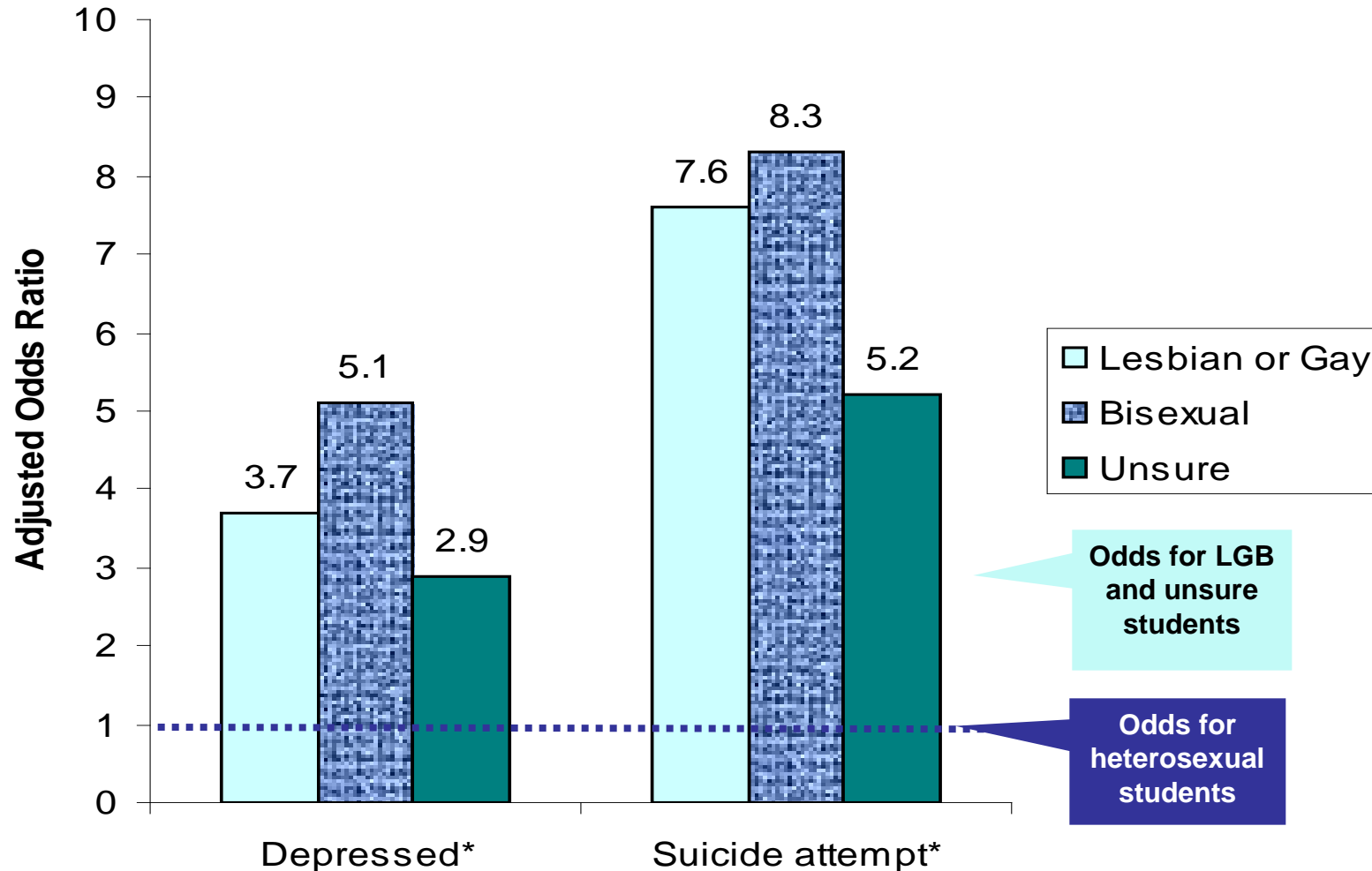


\*Statistically significant difference between students with LG, B, or unsure and heterosexual identity with 95% CI



# Sexual Identity findings, 2011

Figure 23. Adjusted odds ratios of mental health among students who identify as LGB or unsure vs. heterosexual, 2011

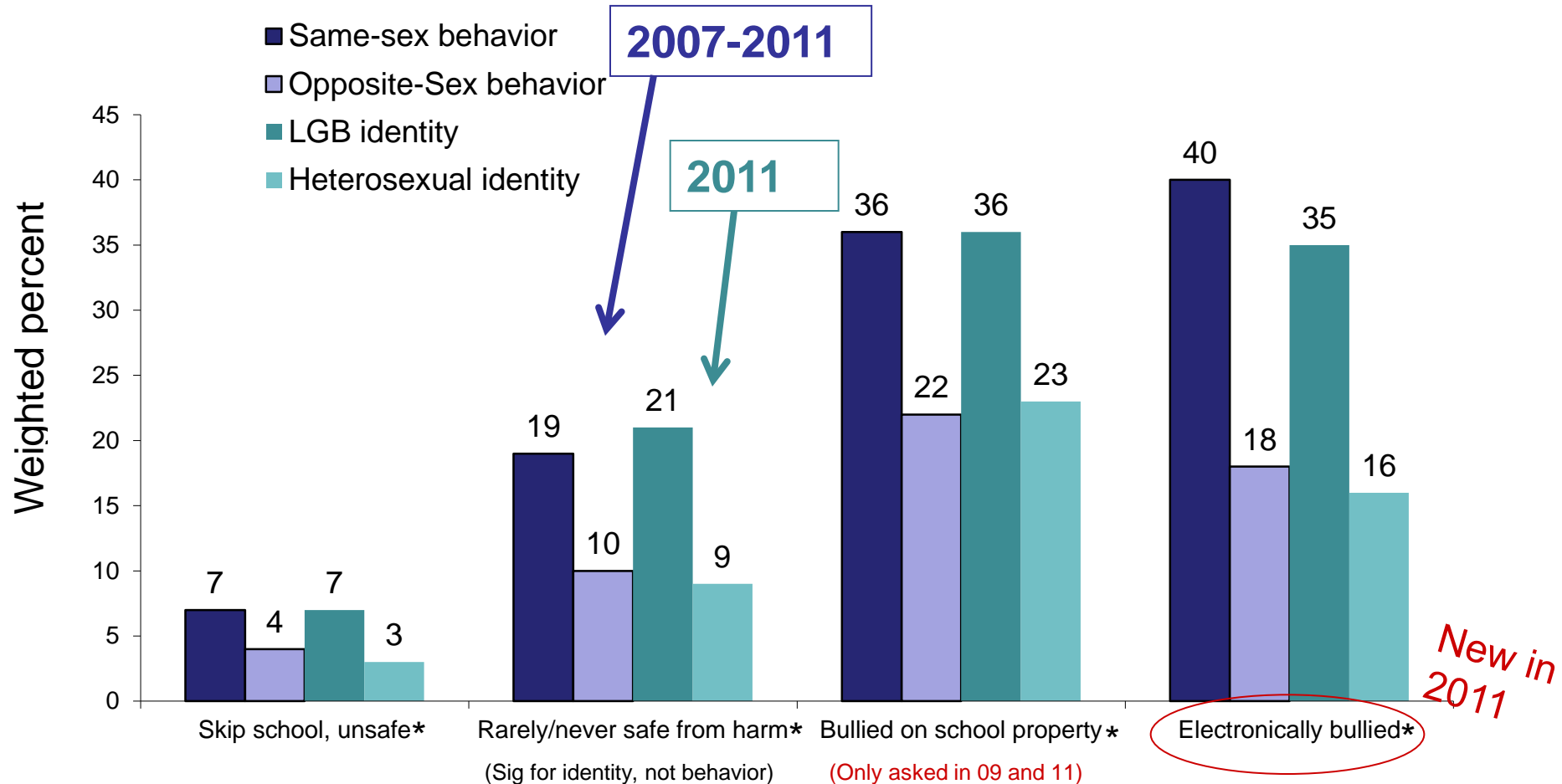


\*Statistically significant difference between students with LG, B, or unsure and heterosexual identity with 95% CI



# School Safety and Bullying

Figure 16. School safety and bullying among same-sex and LGB students, 2011



\*Statistically significant difference between students with lesbian, gay, or bisexual and heterosexual identity with 95% CI







# Key Findings

**10%** of sexually-active students statewide report same-sex contact (**13%** in MKE)  
**9%** of all students statewide identified as L,G,B or unsure in 2011 (**15%** in MKE)

Same-sex youth had...

**5** times the odds of **attempting suicide** and **being injured in a fight**

**4** times the odds of **having sex before the age of 13**

**3** times the odds of **skipping school because they feel unsafe**

**2** times the odds of **smoking cigarettes**

**1/2** the odds of **feeling they belong at school**





## 6. IMPLICATIONS

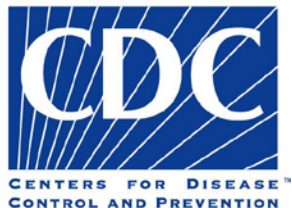




# Implications

1. Significant disparities exist for sexual minority youth both by behavior and identity
2. School violence, mental health, and suicide risk among sexual minority youth must be addressed
3. Protective factors should also be addressed





# Recommendations

## **Schools, families, and communities**

- ▶ **Address stigma, discrimination, family disapproval, social rejection, and violence**

## **Agencies and schools**

- ▶ **Adopt policies and practices to create a safe and supportive environment**
  - ▶ Gay-Straight Alliance
  - ▶ Safe Zones
  - ▶ Comprehensive bullying/harassment policy
  - ▶ LGBT library resources

## **Staff at schools and community agencies**

- ▶ **Undergo training** so they understand the needs and can implement effective programs/services

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SexualMinorityYouth/>



# Existing Resources



[www.gsafewi.org/](http://www.gsafewi.org/)



[www.diverseandresilient.org](http://www.diverseandresilient.org)



**Rainbow Alliance for Healthy Youth**  
Program of Diverse & Resilient that works  
with youth leaders throughout the state



*Whose Life Could You Change With Love?*

[www.journey2accept.org/](http://www.journey2accept.org/)



<http://community.pflag.org>



# For More Information



Wisconsin DHS LGBT Health website

- [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lgbthealth](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lgbthealth)



Wisconsin DPI LGBT website

- <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/lgbt.html>



CDC Sexual Minority Youth website

- [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/smy.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/smy.htm)

CDC LGBT Youth Resources

- [www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm)



Wisconsin YRBS

- <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbsindx.html>





## 7. QUESTIONS?

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